

Call to Order

Russell Kaphan, Chair of the commission called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Nowak Room in the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were: Kristen Murphy, Town Natural Resource Planner, Don Briselden, Margaret “Maggie” Matick, Jay Gregoire, Cynthia Field, Russell Kaphan, Pete Richardson, Ginny Raub, Alyson Eberhardt and Mike (Robert) Field. Those absent were BOS Representative Don Clement, Carlos Guindon and Kevin Keaveney.

- 1. Introduction of Members Present**– each member announced their name.
- 2. Public Comment** – there was no public comment.

Action Items:

1. Open Space Committee reactivation

Mr. Briselden gave the history of the Exeter Open Space Committee. In 2006 a committee charter was established for this organization so named Open Space Committee and approved by the Board of Selectman. Open Space is defined as tracks of land, based on criteria, with potential conservation value. He explained there was a 3 million dollars bond for new acquisitions and a portion of this funding is still available. The charter focused on looking at land that was suitable for acquiring open space for the Conservation Committee. Mr. Briselden suggested to reactive this committee to help the Conservation Commission pursue it goals. It was mentioned that Carlos Guindon said he would be happy to serve on this Committee.

Ginny Raub made a motion of consideration for an Open Space Committee be submitted to the town manager for comments and/or approval, seconded by Mr. Briselden. Motion carried – all in favor. Mr. Briselden agreed to contact the town manager.

2. Sign at Fresh River/Beech Hill

Mrs. Murphy explained she was approached by New Hampshire Fish and Game. They requested to put a sign at the entrance of a group of conservation parcels on Cubie Road a.k.a. Cuba Road. Each member reviewed the diagram of the Kiosk. NH Fish and Game would be building the Kiosk and responsible for the cost of the sign. The Conservation Committee would incur a cost only if they chose to add to the sign. Fish and Game would like to have this sign ready for next year however, further discussion is needed to confirm costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Kaphan to approve the Conservation Commission land for this sign with the technical details to be confirmed at a later date. Motion carried – all in favor.

Ms. Eberhardt volunteered to be the liaison to confirm the details of the sign with Fish & Game.

3. Trails Update

Mr. Gregoire stated a meeting is to be scheduled at the end of the month.

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Mr. Gregoire inquired of the interns. Ms. Murphy stated two interns started on Monday. They are working on crossing #3 and are coming up with a materials plan for crossing #5.

Pete Richardson said there is a new bridge at Jolly Rand Road. The original bridge was built 7-8 years ago by the residents of River Woods. Also, a new trail was added at the intersection of Jolly Rand Road and Pickpocket Road, now named Pedal Path.

Ginny Raub said she would like to see an area easily accessible to those with disabilities. She recommended firm ground, the path to be 3 feet wide and with roots removed for easy access. The McDonnell property was mentioned as an option. There was an agreement with the commission this would be in honor of Steve Shope.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Ginny Raub to share this suggestion with the Trails Committee. Mrs. Raub explained she will attend the Trails Committee and will mention it at the next meeting.

Mrs. Murphy mentioned the Exeter Trail Race to take place on June 16, 2013. In accordance with the event agreement, the group leaders will communicate with Carlos Guindon prior to the event to determine if the trails are too muddy

4. Outreach Update

Mrs. Raub shared a copy of the self-guided flyer that was provided for McDonnell-White's Meadow Conservation Area walk event. She mentioned a missing sign has been found and returned. She also thanked Diane Arnheim and Bruce White for their diligence for watching over and taking care of the trails. An interpretive flyer is available on the town website and a brochure of the McDonnell area will be available once finalized.

5. Boundary Monitoring Update - Mr. Field explained they do not have anything to report at this time.

Regular Business:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Briselden made a motion to approve the minutes for May 14, 2013, seconded by and Maggie Matick. Motion carried – all in favor.

2. Natural Resources Planners Report and Correspondence:

Mrs. Murphy discussed the following:

- The interns started Monday.
- She has a list of their projects and if the Committee would like to review this and provide input to contact her.
- Ms. Murphy said the Town was awarded the Green Infrastructure Grant through Rockingham Planning Commission. The Marshall Farms neighborhood contacted her about the storm drains and the possible affects on the quality of water in Brickyard Pond. This prompted a proposal that includes a commitment of environmentally friendly lawn care treatment, an education program,

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offering rain barrels at a discounted rate, a demonstration program in the neighborhood for installing the barrels on 1-2 homes and two demonstrations of rain gardens on two properties with water quality monitoring of Brickyard Pond throughout the project. The purpose is to educate the community on environmentally friendly lawn care products and services.

- She was contacted by the YMCA to discuss the use of the Morissette Conservation Property for Ecological outreach programs. They will be meeting on Thursday June 12, 2013.
- The repairs scheduled for the Raynes barn is temporarily on hold. It will be completed the second week of September and will remain on this budget year.
- An estimate was received from Bell and Flynn for the Raynes drainage repair project. Nate Merrill, the farmer at Raynes Farm applied for a NRCS Grant which would aide in improving the drainage at the farm.
- We contacted Doug York from channel 98, who sent a student Mike Collopy out to film the Fish Ladder event. We also intended to video an interview of Don Clement who will be filmed near the plaque that Mike Lambert recently installed at the Stewart Waterfront Park discussing the importance of the connection to Great Bay
- Non-point source study from NH DES is out now for review. Comments are due on August 16, 2013.
- An email was sent about the Water Quality monitoring asking for volunteers to sample the water quality from 8:30-10:00 every two weeks. She would like more people to help with the rotations through August.

3. Other Business

Ms. Raub discussed the Facebook page. The name "Friends of the Exeter Conservation Commission" was suggested. She asked the members for suggestions of links, pictures or activities for the page.

4. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda Items

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2013.

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Mr. Richardson pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (d). Motion was seconded by Ms. Raub. Motion carried – all in favor.

Public Session reconvened at 9:03 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Young
Recording Secretary