

Call to Order

1. Members present: Kristen Murphy (Natural Resource Planner), Jay Gregoire, Cynthia Fields, Bill Campbell, Peter Richardson, Russ Kaphan (Chair), Maggie Matick, Mike Fields, Virginia Raub, and Don Clement (BOS rep)
2. Public Comment: None

Regular Business**1. Unitil Preliminary Presentation on the Granite State Gas Transmission 0.9 mile pipe line replacement between Newfields Road and Rte 101:**

Stephen Herzog from Unitil described the work to be conducted near the wastewater treatment plant. The pipeline was set in 1956 and laid on the surface of the river. The new pipeline will be relocated to the North West side of the wastewater treatment plant. The existing line will be abandoned and secured in place. Mr. Briselden asked about any work to be done near the town forest and Mr. Herzog said work will not occur in the town forest. Mr. Clement asked if the Department of Public Works had been notified and Roger Barham, a Unitil Rep. responded that the reroute was negotiated with DPW. Mr. Briselden asked to define "temporary impact" in the application. The pipe is 10 inches in diameter and a 35 foot section will be traversed by equipment. The impacted wetland will be replaced with a seed mix. No impact to the Squamscott River is expected because the pipe will be installed by "horizontal directional drilling." Mr. Kaphan asked about the right of way to access the pipeline and it was answered that the land covering the pipeline will only need to be mowed periodically. Mr. Barham commented that work is expected to begin in 2015 and a wetlands application will be submitted in the coming months. Mr. Campbell asked if a section of the pipeline is located in a wooded area and Mr. Herzog pointed out the pipeline is not located on any wooded area.

2. Snowshoe Hullabaloo Event Request (Sarah Sallade/Ri Fahnestock)

Sarah Sallade and Ri Fahnestock presented the event request for the Snowshoe Hullabaloo. The snowshoe race will occur along 4 miles in the Henderson Swasey forest as described in the ECC Event Agreement. The event date is Saturday, February 22, 2014. They anticipated 60-75 participants. The race will start at the Lantern Factory on Industrial Drive where there is parking and bathrooms. Ms. Sallade stated they will clean the course after the race. The race starts at 11: 00 AM and estimated finish at 1:00 PM. Partial proceeds from the race will benefit

the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) who will also be at the event. Conditions for canceling would be ice or no snow. Ms. Murphy stated that the current pre-race inspector Carlos Guindon is away and someone will have to fill that role. Without further discussion Mr. Briselden moved to approve the event request, Ms. Raub seconded and the motion was passed unanimously. The event request was granted.

3. Open Space Charter Finalization

Mr. Briselden talked about the modifications made to the Open Space Subcommittee charter. Mr. Campbell asked how and if the Open Space Committee was different from the Trails Committee. Mr. Briselden noted that originally the Open Space Committee was appointed by Board of Selectmen. Now it will be a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission intended to include other community members. Mr. Richardson moved to finalize the Open Space Committee as an official subcommittee. Mr. Campbell seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Committee Reports

- a. **Trails Committee:** The Raynes Farm Snowshoe event will be held Saturday February 15 at 5:30PM starting at the parking lot by the barn. At the Trails Committee meeting tasks for the summer interns were discussed. The committee is also interested in creating an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) trail. The Sweet Trail in Newmarket and a trail in Brentwood were recommended as examples of other ADA trails. Mr. Briselden suggested the trails located on Court Street beyond the former high school as an ADA trail. The Eagle Scout working on these trails could ensure the crossings are an appropriate width so it is ADA compatible. Kristen also mentioned the trail along Cubie Rd as another site. Planning on the ADA trails will continue in the spring. Mr. Gregoire also mentioned the possibility for getting Timberland to work with on trails on their community volunteer day.
- b. **Outreach:** February 22 at 11:00AM there will be a riverside walk lead by Ms. Raub and Mr. Richardson to discuss terms associated with the Great Dam and the current feasibility study. The walk will last one hour. Another walk will also occur before the River Study town hall meeting on March 8 to discuss terms and answer questions. The flyer can be found under the River Study tab on the Exeter Town Website along with the minutes.

5. Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2014

Mr. Briselden moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Richardson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Natural Resource Planner's Report and correspondence

The Franklin Street properties will be discussed for a second time, an by the Technical Review Committee meeting on February 18. During Monday's meeting the BOS discussed the town filing for exemption from state shore land regulations. It was initiated partially by the application at 28 Franklin Street which would need the exemption. Ms. Murphy had provided the Commission the comments she gave to the Town Manager prior to the meeting. The plans for the properties are in Ms. Murphy's office. The BOS did not take action on the application and was looking to hear from the ECC and Exeter Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee (ESRLAC). Mr. Clement said towns can request exemption from these regulations in developed areas where they have local shoreland regulations in place. He explained the area proposed still has a buffer intact and is exempt from our local shoreland regulations. The group discussed that the Squamscott and the Exeter River are protected under the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Shoreland Protection Act provides protection for fish spawning grounds, archeological sites, freshwater and coastal wetlands, promoting wildlife habitat, and preventing pollution. The BOS would have to vote in order to apply for the exemption. The benefit of the state process is that the Department of Fish and Game and the Natural Heritage Bureau also review applications. Mr. Kaphan asked if the issue need not apply because the town does not have shore land protections in place. Mr. Clement said he mentioned this discrepancy at the meeting and the application could still be sent forward but may not be approved because of said limitations. Ms. Raub stated that the Franklin Street area is located inside of the dam impoundment so a decision should wait until the Great Dam removal is voted on. Mr. Briselden mentioned consistency with dam removal and creating healthy shoreline and applications for boat docks along the river require permitting. Mr. Briselden stated the committee should recommend the town retain protection on the river. Mr. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the BOS to not grant exemption, Ms. Field seconded. It was discussed the motion should also includes reasons behind recommendation. The reasons are stated in Ms. Murphy's email to the

BOS. The revised motion states to recommend to the BOS to not grant the Urban Exemption with supplemental materials stating reasons. The motion was passed unanimously. The Technical Review Committee also scheduled a McDonald's proposal and one other. Ms. Murphy also reported that legal counsel is reviewing the revised draft of the lease for the storage of historical items from the Historical Society in the Raynes Barn.

7. Other Business

A summary of deliberative session on February 1 was discussed. Items related to the ECC included work to be done on the Raynes' Barn roof which moved forward as part of the General Budget. Another item was the citizen's petition to add the dam removal to the ballot on March 11. No motion was made to amend the article. The River Study Committee presented background information and other proponents spoke. Any questions relating to the river can be sent to exeterdamstudy@gmail.com.

The fireside chat held by the River Study Committee was reported to have good attendance. Four representatives from state agencies were present. The event was taped by EXTV. Mr. Richardson stated it was important to make a decision at the town meeting about the Exeter Dam and it was his opinion in favor to take the dam out. Citizens should take care to study the options presented.

Another item from the deliberative session was an amendment made to the Eliot Property Warrant. The new warrant includes restructured language to clarify the amount of money spent and funds available.

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be on the on March 18, the third Tuesday of the month instead of the usual second Tuesday.

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms Raub seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Sarah McGraw