

The Exeter Conservation Commission met in the Nowak Room of Exeter Town Office Building on Tuesday January 14, 2014 at 7:01PM.

Call to Order

1. Members present: Don Briselden, Alyson Eberhardt, Virginia Raub, Peter Richardson (acting chair), Don Clement (BOS rep), Jay Gregoire, and Natural Resource Planner, Kristen Murphy.
2. Public Comment: None

Regular Business

1. **Elliot Property Acquisition Update:** Duane Hyde, Land Protection Director, from the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) presented a project update for the Elliott/Growing Oaklands Project. He informed the Commission that the project did not receive the Land Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant and provided an overview of some alternative grants. This included the Fields Pond Foundation Grant, Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership (PREP) Transactional Grant, and the Trails Bureau-Recreational Trails Grant. Mr. Clement suggested that the ECC change the language of the warrant to allow the application and acceptance of other grants and funds that may become available. The trails committee will discuss the trails grant at their next meeting and also communicate with the Snowhounds snowmobile club. The board agreed to try and apply for all three grants.

Mr. Hyde also provided an update on the triangle portion of the property where landownership is still not clear. Charlie Tucker, their attorney, suggested talking with the abutting home owners associations (Forest Ridge and Exeter Highlands). Mr. Hyde is working with both associations to sign a deed release.

Mr. Hyde also discussed the two access requirements through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Program grant (WRP) the town was awarded. The Town will be required to grant temporary access to the property for the cleanup funded by that NRCS. He suggested the existing trail would be ideal. The second requirement is for a formal access easement to NRCS for monitoring. It was determined that since access could be secured through town-owned land, Duane would discuss next steps with NRCS.

2. **Lease for Storage of Items in the Raynes' Barn**

As requested in the December meeting, Kristen presented a draft lease to the Exeter Historical Society for storage of several antiques at Raynes Barn. Mr. Richardson suggested a change to clause 4 adding language that allows the ECC to terminate the lease. Mr. Clement suggested wording the termination of agreement could be requested by either party given a set number of days notice. It was clarified that responsibility for the historical pieces is not covered by the town insurance policy and that the ECC is not charging rent for storing the pieces. Mr. Gregoire agreed to make changes and then Kristen will send it to the town's legal counsel and to the Historical Society to review before finalizing the document.

3. **Open Space Committee**

Don Briselden presented a revised draft charter for the Open Space Committee. He said the open space committee was originally appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Under the proposed revisions the committee will have similar responsibilities but will be a subcommittee

of the ECC with members appointed by the ECC. Ms. Alyson Eberhardt suggested some edits. It was recommended the revision be brought back to the ECC in February for a vote on creating the subcommittee.

4. Raynes Farm Snowshoe Event

The plans for a full moon snowshoe event at Raynes Farm were discussed. Jay Gregoire agreed to lead the walk on February 15 leaving from the upper parking lot at 5:30PM. Hot cider and hot chocolate will be served at the Barn. Advertising will include using local media, Facebook, the town webpage and Exeter Newsletter.

5. Dam Removal Feasibility Analysis Discussion

Don Clement provided an update to the ECC on this project. He said the Board of Selectment voted to allow DPW to apply for a grant that would fund the dam removal if this passed at the March 11 Town Meeting. There were sufficient signatures on a citizen's petition to support the dam removal option as a warrant article. Pete and Ginny presented that an outreach subcommittee to the River Study Committee met to discuss how to disseminate information about options for addressing the Letter of Deficiency from the state. They are planning for handouts, information sheets and a possible walking tour. Ms. Eberhardt suggested using Facebook to reach out to other demographics.

6. Committee Reports

- a. **Trails** : Next Trails Committee meeting will be January 29, 2014 location TBA.
- b. **Raynes Farm Stewardship**: Kristen presented that an Exeter resident was interested in joining the committee. It was confirmed that there was no limit on the number of members from the community. Kristen will let Ben Anderson know that the Commission welcomes his participation.

7. Approval of Minutes : December 10,2013

Don Briselden moved to approve the minutes with the discussed revisions, Jay Gregoire seconded. The minutes were passed.

8. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Virginia Raub reported that there was \$413.00 left remaining in the 2013 funds. Mr. Clement moved to pass the treasurer's report, Ms. Eberhardt seconded. The treasurer's report was passed.

9. Natural Resources Planner's Report and Correspondence

Ms. Murphy noted that the March and November meetings conflict with Town Meeting and a holiday. The March and November meetings were moved to the 4th day of the month.

10. Other Business: None

11. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda

The next ECC meeting will be February 11, 2014. Mr. Clement moved to adjourn the meeting, Don Briselden seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah McGraw