

Exeter Conservation Commission

May 13, 2014

Call to Order

In the absence of the Chairman Russell Kaphan, Vice Chair Carlos Guindon called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the Nowak Room of the Town Office building.

1. Introduction of Members Present
William Campbell. Ginny Raub. Selectmen's representative Anne Surman, Maggie Matick, Pete Richardson, Kevin Keaveney. Mike Field and Cynthia Field. Also in attendance: Kristen Murphy. Town Natural Resource Planner.
2. Public Comment
No public comment at this time

Regular Business

1. Selection of Officers
Although not able to be present at this meeting, Jay Gregoire agreed to serve as Chairman if nominated. Mr. Guindon agreed to serve as Vice Chair but noted he may be gone again in the spring of 2015. Ms. Raub agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Campbell moved to nominate one slate of officers for the year 2014-2015; seconded by Mr. Richardson.

Jay Gregoire - Chairman
Carlos Guindon - Vice Chairman
Ginny Raub - Secretary/Treasurer

Motion carried.

2. Approval of minutes April 8, 2014
It was suggested to add "during Mud Season" to the motion for closing the trails to bikes etc.
Ms. Raub, contrary to what the minutes indicated, wished the minutes to reflect she was not in favor of using rails for fat tire bikes for winter cycling; also other corrections were noted. Ms. Raub motioned to accept minutes with corrections; seconded by Ms. Field.
Motion carried. (Mr. Campbell. Mr. Guindon, Ms. Surman and Mr. Keaveney abstaining)

3. Expenditure Requests
Ms. Murphy explained the Commission has an opportunity to purchase and resell rain barrels to the community. But with a cost of \$70.00 per barrel she felt that might be a deterrent to residents purchasing such barrel. She suggested using Town allocated funds (up to \$200) to be applied as a discount to the cost of the barrel.

Further discussion suggested the Commission purchase one and set up display in Town Office lobby for those interested to see the product with instructions to order on line or to contact Ms. Murphy for assistance. The manufacturer would track the orders and apply the discount to the first number of buyers (that totaled to \$200). It was also suggested using social media to advertise and possibly setting up a display at Farmers Market. Mr. Campbell felt applying the discount of \$10 towards the purchase price was reasonable. If

Minutes approved with corrections at July 8, 2014 meeting

the demand exceeds the dollars allocated, the discount could be revisited at a future meeting.

Mr. Richardson moved to authorize \$200 to be used to offset the cost of purchasing rain barrels; seconded by Ms. Matick. Motion carried.

Ms. Murphy explained that in previous years a promotional package of products supplied by the sponsors of National Trails Day is offered to hosts of a National Trails day event. The products offered range from backpacks to bug spray to decals but found to be useful. When purchased, the Commission used the products as raffle prizes for the Trails Day event. When the participants sign in they are then eligible for the drawing. This year the package is being offered at a cost of \$69.95 (plus shipping). Ms. Murphy asked if there was interest in purchasing the swag this year to be used on Trails Day June 7, 2014 at the Little River Conservation area. Ms. Matick motioned to authorize the expenditure of up to seventy-five dollars for purchasing the promotional package; seconded by Ms. Surman.

Motion carried

(Ms. Raub and Mr. Campbell were not present for the vote as they had excused themselves to attend a school board meeting honoring former Conservation Commission member Peter Waltz for his work with the Lincoln St. School on numerous Arbor Day presentations)

Mr. Richardson suggested purchasing a 4x4 trail head post to be placed at the end of Dolloff Drive cul-de-sac on the ROW indicating this is a link into the Little River Conservation area trail network. The 15 foot ROW was granted when the development was approved but at a time before boundary pins were inspected/verified by the Conservation Commission. Over time there's been encroachment onto this ROW and the abutters are now aware of the property lines although some pins have not been found. It was agreed the property owners will be advised of any intended placement of such a labeled trail post.

Mr. Richardson motioned to spend up \$100 for trail head post(s) noting if dollars allow the purchase of a second post, it will be used at another site; seconded by Ms. Field. Motion carried.

4. Other Business

Mr. Guindon spoke of going to the McDonnell Conservation area (off of Linden St.) that day and determined the bridging installed last year as an Eagle Scout project between White's Meadow and the McDonnell trail was absent; the blocks were still in place. Also several piles of mostly biodegradable debris were deposited along the trail side; from size of piles most likely wheeled into the area. Ms. Murphy will explore further.

Mr. Richardson remarked he had recently paddled the Exeter River from Linden Street down to Gilman Park and reported on the number of downed trees in the waterway; will determine how or if to be handled.

Ms. Murphy spoke of upcoming events/workshops that might be of interest to members. The upcoming Fish Ladder Tour is set for May 17, 2014 noting the alewives are running.

The June meeting is set for June 10, 2014.

Before going into posted work session, Mr. Richardson motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Matick. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Work Session Discussion Topics

1. All Boards II Meeting topics

The second All Boards meeting was set for May 21, 2014 with all land use board members invited. The first All Boards meeting in September focused on the long range vision for the Town; this meeting was to determine what actions be undertaken to achieve the goals.

In the absence of a prepared agenda for the scheduled meeting, discussion varied from the Conservation Commission serving as a resource for the various Boards, working together perhaps in the streamlining the application process and having a presence on the Technical Review Committee (TRC) with other Land use Board members present if applicable. There was agreement the need for balance and communication.

2. CIP submission

It was ascertained there were no anticipated projects with a cost of over \$25,000 projected for the Commission this upcoming year 2015-2016. It was agreed there were other projects/programs to be re-visited in the next upcoming years.

3. Discussion of Tree Removal request at Raynes Farm

Working from a prepared aerial view from MapsOnLine of the Raynes property, Ms. Murphy pointed out the group of 3 hickory trees Nate Merrill requested be removed while work on the drainage tiles was underway. Consensus was not to remove the trees at this time.

4. Meeting with Executive Director of NH Association Conservation Commission

Ms. Murphy reported the new Exec. Director of NHACC is making himself available to come and speak with NH Conservation groups; did the group wish to accept such an invitation. It was about four years ago when Ms. Andrews, then the director, came and addressed the Commission. Members felt it would be a beneficial program. Ms. Murphy will contact to verify schedules but try for within the next two months.

5. Closing on the Elliot property will most likely not occur this month; perhaps in June. Duane Hyde of Southeast Land Trust (SELT) was asking for suggestions to celebrate the newest acquisition to the Oaklands Town Forest. Will seek more details at June meeting.

Commission members gathered downstairs in Wheelwright Room for another sort of celebration at 8: 30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub
Recording Secretary