

**Draft Minutes  
Exeter Conservation Commission  
September 9, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting convened at 6:59 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town offices on the above date.

**1. Introduction of Members Present:** Carlos Guindon, Jay Gregoire, Alyson Eberhardt, Don Briselden, Maggie Matick, Peter Richardson, Bill Campbell, and Natural Resource Planner, Kristen Murphy.

**2. Public Comment:** None

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**1. Committee Reports**

**a. Boundary Monitoring:** Ms. Murphy said she sent letters to easement holders to coordinate future monitoring visits. Mr. Guindon reported that he walked the Little River boundary. He was looking for a site to install our game camera at the beaver ponds. He found there has been logging activity on the private property you cross from the Continental Drive trailhead. As a result he found it hard to find the right of way from the Continental Drive end. Mr. Guindon had also noted moose droppings.

**b. Trails:** Mr. Gregoire gave a recap of the last Trails Committee meeting. The leaf plowing prohibition was discussed and signs will be posted to reinforce the policy. Dogs without leashes on trails have been an issue. It is a town ordinance for dogs to be leashed. Another issue discussed was the need to re-blaze the Oakland's trail. Several users had reported sections missing blazes. It was discussed to expand the blazing beyond the main loops to include side trails on the town maps. Mr. Campbell suggested putting signs up at intersections. Mr. Gregoire said the Trails Committee would come up with a plan for blazing trails and come back to the Commission. Mr. Gregoire said the Trails Committee discussed the possibility for an ADA trail on Old Farm Town Road. Ms. Murphy said the Commission shares ownership with the Fish and Game. She said this could be a long-term project with possible grant requests.

Mr. Gregoire said he spoke to Jason Fritz with the Exeter Fire Department about doing bike patrols along trails and trail info for Town emergency staff. For safety reasons, the fire department would like all of the trails GPSed. Jay will be coordinating with volunteers to accomplish this and have them send data back to Ms. Murphy to update the maps. This way in the event of an emergency on a trail the rescue personnel would know where to find someone.

Mr. Richardson commented that there are 10 trails in Town that need a long-term plan. Mr. Gregoire said the Trails Committee would make a list of projects. Mr. Guindon said he had cleaned some trails and others such as the McDonnell trail require mowing. Mr. Briselden said that the Commission should identify the trails not made by the Town and make a plan for them. Ms. Eberhardt noted the trail network is dense and they would lose the integrity of the forest with too many trails.

**c. Outreach:** Ms. Eberhardt talked about the trail passport idea to get more people and families on the Town trail system. She and Ms. Murphy along with the Commission's interns had drafted a template with a map and room for a description, interesting facts and place for a trail rubbing which serves as a "stamp". When a person collects stamps for at least 3 sites they could earn a prize. Ms. Eberhardt discussed the possibility of using stickers as a reward. The cost of the stickers depends on the amount purchased but the prices are as follows: for 125 stickers, \$ 205: 250:\$235, 1000: \$300. It was agreed to go with purchasing 500 stickers for \$250. Mr. Campbell asked if the groups needed to find all the trails in one day. Ms. Eberhardt said they could complete 3 and when they bring the passport in to the Town, they get the prize. Mr. Campbell said t-shirts could be expensive after talking with the director of the Prescott Park Arts. Ms. Eberhardt said she spoke with one local company and found a t-shirt that would be

comfortable to wear. Mr. Gregoire suggested trying the stickers first and seeing how it goes. Ms. Eberhardt also mentioned giving the passports out to schools.

Ms. Eberhardt also talked about the way to create a rubbing station by putting up a name badge along the trail. They would cost about \$35 each to start. Mr. Briselden suggested using technology to do part of the passport. Mr. Campbell said it could create more work for Ms. Murphy. It was agreed that technology could be used, as the passport gets more popular. Altogether with supplies for the rubbings and the sticker it would cost \$480.

*Mr. Briselden motioned to allow the expenditure not to exceed \$500.00 for passport supplies and stickers, second by Ms. Matick. **VOTE: Unanimous***

Ms. Murphy talked about the volunteers that signed up to be at the table at the Exeter Fall Fest. Some spots still needed to be filled. Ms. Murphy said the table would be trail focused. Mr. Campbell said he had a table for use. There would be trail maps, acorn painting and the passports. Ms. Eberhardt suggested leaf drawing. Ms. Murphy also said they could put up a map of the easements and trails so people could mark off where they had visited. The Commission had also missed the first deadline for table registration.

*Ms. Eberhardt motioned to spend \$25.00 additional for the late registration fee, second by Mr. Richardson. **VOTE Unanimous***

Ms. Murphy spoke about a trail head post that was done free hand but that they could also use a router with a stencil to make them. The cost for the stencil would be \$55.00.

*Mr. Richardson motioned to spend \$55.00 on the stencil, second by Mr. Gregoire. **VOTE: Unanimous***

Ms. Murphy mentioned Bob Kelly had reported complaints about dog feces at the Henderson-Swasey property near Industrial Drive. Ms. Murphy said she found a posts with dispenser for plastic bags for walkers to pick up the droppings that cost \$110.00. It did not have a trasj can. The Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains other stations which do have trash cans. Mr. Briselden said people might just litter the bags in the woods. Since the Committee does not own the beginning of the trail they would need permission to put up a post with a trash can. It was suggested that Ms. Murphy check with DPW to see if they would also maintain a pet waste station at the Industrial Drive entrance.

Ms. Murphy said the co-op middle school is looking for volunteer activities for the students and they could do some small projects with the Commission. The Commission supported reaching out to them with a list of volunteer opportunities.

Mr Gregoire also brought up bridges in the Oaklands Trail system that are in disrepair. The challenge to maintaining them is they were not permitted to be there by the NH Department of Environmental Services during the Forest Ridge development. The bridges cross prime wetlands. Ms. Murphy reached out to Mark West to see what the process would be to get the permit to keep the bridges there. One bridge had been repaired by volunteers. Mr. Briselden said they should talk to the Planning Board to see if there were other conditions for that site.

Mr. Briselden excused himself from the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 12, 2014.

*Ms. Matick moved to approve the minutes from August 12, 2014 with minor corrections, second by Mr. Gregoire. **VOTE: Unanimous. Two abstentions from members who were not present at the meeting.***

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Ms. Raub was not present at the meeting but Ms. Murphy reported she submitted the 2014-2015 budget request. As suggested by the Commission she included funds for fall interns. She confirmed with finance that if we were unable to find interns during the fall, the money could be applied to other areas of the Commissions budget.

*These minutes are subject to possible corrections/revisions at a subsequent  
Exeter Conservation Commission meeting.*

**NATURAL RESOURCE PLANNER'S REPORT:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** October 14, 2014 in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices.

Mr. Gregoire asked Ms. Murphy to send a new schedule of the Fall Fest to Commission members to sign up for additional times.

*Mr. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Eberhardt. **VOTE:** Unanimous*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah McGraw