

Final Minutes

The meeting convened at 7:02 pm in the Nowak room of the Exeter Town Offices. Members present: Pete Richardson, Anne Surman (BOS Rep), Carlos Guindon, Jay Gregoire (Chair), Alyson Eberhardt, Cynthia Field, Mike Field, Kristen Murphy (Natural Resource Planner), Maggie Matick, Virginia Raub.

Call to Order

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment: None

Regular Business**1. Committee Reports**

- a. **Boundary Monitoring:** Mr. Richardson reported on progress of pin finding for Deerhaven and Christina Estates properties. Ms Murphy, the Fields and Mr. Guindon inspected the Exeter Country Club grouping. Ms. Murphy and Mr. Campbell completed the Field property, and they and Mr. Richardson completed the tax deeded parcel adjacent to Henderson-Swasey property. Ms. Murphy commented on the intern's progress. They have completed 22 parcels with a total of 332 acres. They are inspecting properties and marking their path while documenting observations.
- b. **Trails:** Mr. Gregoire read a synopsis of the trail work done by the interns work. To date they have constructed a 33' long bridge on red trail near marker 8 in Oaklands, inventoried the rough plank system in Henderson Swasey and Oaklands to identify areas for repair/replacement and trimmed the overgrowth back from all trails in Henderson Swasey and Oaklands. The trails committee will meet at the end of July to discuss a five year plan for trail improvement and itemize them by importance. Mr. Gregoire asked the Committee for funds to replace rotted planks on the trail system.
Mr. Richardson moved to authorize \$200 for trail work second by Ms. Field.
VOTE: Unanimous. Ms. Murphy wanted to mention the power line upgrade in relation to the work done on the Red Trail. She wanted to make sure PSNH does not work over the trail work. PSNH should start their work late fall of 2014. Mr. Gregoire said he will share the info with the trails committee to work does not occur in the area that will be impacted until after PSNH has completed their project.
- c. **Outreach:** Ms. Raub reported on the June 6 Trails Day. Mr. Guindon led a bird walk. Dave O'Hearn a wildlife naturalist led a wildlife walk. Ms. Eberhardt asked how the attendees heard about the walk. Ms. Murphy said town website and news paper. Ms. Murphy asked whether the Commission wanted to participate in the upcoming Fall Festival (October 4, 2014) put on by the Chamber of Commerce. The table costs \$75. Mr. Gregoire said having the table was good outreach but wondered if it was worth doing. Ms. Eberhardt asked what the goal was for outreach. Ms. Murphy said the previous year was a broad range of topics from storm water pollution to climate change. Ms. Eberhardt said it was valuable to have a table because it provided face to face interaction. Ms. Raub suggested refining what the Committee was offering at the table. It was agreed that the Committee would brainstorm ideas and vote on having a table at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Richardson suggested Ms. Murphy

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send an email with the details for the table. Ms. Eberhardt suggested on making a passport for the public to check off what town trails they hiked. Mr. Gregoire agreed on the idea and suggested guided hikes to supplement this passport. Ms. Murphy talked about the Think Blue Group, discussed non-point source pollution. The group is making a town calendar of events with important dates such as hazardous chemical drop off dates and educational messages. There are permits that regulate storm water pollution that the public is unaware of and the town is obligated to meet the regulations. The calendar is slated to be printed by November and Kristen asked the group to email ideas on dates that are important to residents and some key educational messages (vernal pools, woodcocks).

2. Approval of Minutes

Corrections: Globally correct spelling of Carlos Guindon. Item #2, first line 2nd paragraph to “Ms. Raub wished it to be corrected...”, and to correct spacing throughout. *With corrections made Mr. Guindon moved to pass the minutes from May 13, 2014, second by Mr. Richardson. VOTE: Unanimous*

3. Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Raub explained the budget report for 2014. The report does not reflect items recently approved after April 2014. Ms. Raub discussed the restricted funds, which include donations made since 2009 with specific uses defined by the donor. There was a People’s United account for the purchase of properties with a balance of \$483.04. The Town Treasurer closed the People’s account and moved it to the Citizen’s Bank account, or the Rayne’s Fund. Ms Raub said, the Town Treasurer feels the Commission should show that the funds have been expended, and the commission approves the expenditure of restricted funds for their defined purposes. Ms. Raub read a letter from the Town Treasurer explaining the moving of funds. There are no restricted funds at this point.

Mr. Gregoire motioned the Conservation Commission notes that the Commission has expended \$2735.70 in past restricted funds second by Ms. Field. VOTE: Unanimous Mr. Field asked if it was worthwhile to ask a donor if they are not donating more than \$45.00 than to not restrict the donation. Ms Murphy explained that RSA 36A allows for any money donated that is restricted to be honored. Mr. Gregoire added in order to not discourage donations, to explain the difficulty in making small donations restricted.

Ms. Murphy wished to emphasize the danger in combining Conservation Funds with the Raynes account as Conservation Fund can only be used for natural resource and watershed protection only. It cannot be used for other uses such as building repairs. Ms. Surman said it should not matter that the funds are within a single account as long as the balance of the different restrictions is tracked. Mr. Gregoire suggested looking into the account and talking to the Town attorney about the legalities of comingling funds. Kristen agreed to provide members with a copy of the Conservation Fund guidebook.

Mr. Guindon moved to approve the Treasurer’s report, second by Ms. Eberhardt. VOTE: Unanimous

Work Session**Elliot Acquisition Update (Duane Hyde)**

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Mr. Hyde reported the Conservation Commission and the Southeast Land Trust closed on the Elliot Property. The Town committed to \$84,990 with the actual price being \$78,650. Mr. Hyde said they were waiting on copies of the recorded deeds and the settlement statement but once he receives them he will provide us a copy. He explained progress with coordinating the (Natural Resource Conservation Service) NRCS clean up with the PSNH powerline corridor work so that clean up vehicles can utilize the temporary wetland crossing structures that PSNH will be installing. Ms. Murphy noted that the signs on the property indicate the land is private property. Mr. Hyde said they were installed at the time the property was private and will look into getting other signs to post as publicly accessible land. Mr. Gregoire thanked Mr. Hyde for the acquisition and work with the SELT. Mr. Hyde brought a draft press release for the Commission to review about the property. Plans for a celebration ceremony/event were discussed. The event will be held on August 9, 2014 at 10 am with August 10 as the rain date. It will include a guided walk and a bike ride. Mr. Hyde also spoke about a piece of land donated to the SELT by Martha Pennell on Pickpocket Road. The SELT is raising money to pay for administrative costs.

The meeting moved out of work session and moved back to regular business.

4. Rayne's Roofing Update

Ms. Murphy talked about the roofing project for the Rayne's Barn. The Department of Public Works received bids for the project with the lowest being \$33,600. That would be \$3,600 more than the budget allows. The Commission still has not yet heard results from the New Hampshire Moose Plate Grant application but that could assist with up to \$10,000. There may be funds in the town maintenance budget to cover the shortage. Ms. Raub said the town received \$400.00 from LCHIP for 2013 property inspection. Ms. Surman asked if there would be a reimbursement if the moose plate grant was awarded and repairs would come from the Town Maintenance Fund. Ms. Murphy said she was not sure how that would work out. There was a discussion as to the benefit and draw-back of moving future repairs into the Town maintenance plan. A drawback was that the barn may not out-compete the town facilities in terms of priority.

Other Business

Ms. Murphy noted the Fields bought a wash bottle for the VRAP project for \$12 and other materials.

Jay Gregoire moved to reimburse the Fields for \$15.50. Ms. Surman second. VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Murphy added that prior to the pre-bid meeting and again prior to roof replacement work, the grass needs to be mowed Raynes barn. The cost of mowing is \$350 each time. The stewardship committee recommended mowing twice a year. The Raynes building maintenance fund is \$500. *Mr. Richardson made a motion to approve \$700 for mowing out of the mowing budget first and then move to the building maintenance account, second by Ms. Matick. VOTE: Unanimous*

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 12, 2014

*Ms. Matick moved to adjourn second by Mr. Guindon. **VOTE:** Unanimous*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.
Respectfully Submitted

Sarah McGraw