

## Draft Minutes

### Exeter Conservation Commission

March 18, 2014

#### Call Meeting to Order

**1. Intro:** Peter Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices building. Other members present were Mike Field, Cynthia Field, Virginia Raub, Bill Campbell, Allison Eberhardt, Kristen Murphy – Exeter Natural Resource Planner, and Don Clement – BOS rep. Chairman Russell Kaphan was absent.

#### **2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### Regular Business

##### **1. Riverwoods – New at 20 – Minimum Impact Expedited Dredge and Fill Wetland Application for 1,127 sf of impact to accommodate the installation of a rain garden at an existing drainage ditch (Map 97, Lot 23)**

Jeff Clifford, from Atlas Engineering, spoke about this new project at Riverwoods. He introduced Kathleen Lefave, Director of Residential Services, and Charles Kelsey from Riverwoods. He passed out the application which he hoped to have signed that night.

Ms. Lefave talked about the new projects at Riverwoods. She said Riverwoods opened in 1994. Their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August is what prompted some updates.

Mr. Clifford said one improvement will be the outside area near the entrance. This will impact the manmade wetlands. The improvement will consist of a rain garden. They need a permit from the NH DES to impact the area. He provided multiple maps of different angles of the area. He went on to talk about how the hybrid wetland will be constructed. They will be putting a perforated pipe in that will let water out into stone underneath, which will leave the storm water well oxygenated. The rain garden will filter the water. This project will enhance the esthetics of the area. The project will impact 1200 square feet of the wetlands.

Overall, Mr. Clifford said this will make for a very attractive entrance to Riverwoods. He said they have good employees to upkeep the area. The drainage improvements will decrease frost heaves at Riverwoods. It will improve roadways. He said he was there to get the Conservation Commission's endorsement of the rain garden.

Mr. Clement asked the approximate dimensions of the hybrid rain garden. Mr. Clifford said the bottom of the rain garden is about 1000 square feet. The large portion of the planted part is about 1800 square feet. He went on to explain where the rain water comes from, saying it is mostly from the roof tops.

Mr. Campbell asked what happens in a downpour. Mr. Clifford said the pipe is the same size as the current pipe (18 inches).

A Motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Eberhardt to approve this Expedited Minimum Impact primitive application. Motion carried – all in favor with one abstention from Mr. Richardson.

## **2. Committee Reports (trails, boundary monitoring, outreach, etc)**

Trails - Nothing to report.

Boundary Monitoring – Kristen Murphy said at the last meeting they talked about coming up with a list of priorities for the upcoming year. She gave a list of properties which would be good for the Commission to help out with monitoring. The list divides the properties into which region of town they are in. She said if anyone wants to volunteer to help with the monitoring in an area that would be great. She said if you chose an area to monitor you will monitor it each time it is needed because you will be familiar with the area. Mr. Campbell asked if they could have instructions as to how to go about this by the next meeting and Ms. Murphy said she would provide that. She said basically you walk the property, look at the deed, and write a report, of which she has a form for.

Outreach – Ms. Murphy said the Raynes Farm Snowshoe that was scheduled was cancelled. She asked if anyone was interested in rescheduling it. Also, she said the Woodcock Walk will be at sunset. She said if they abandon the show shoe then there are other options (Woodcock Walk) to do at Raynes Farm. The Woodcock Walk will happen sometime between the end of April-beginning of May. She said it will be scheduled for a Saturday. Ms. Raub suggested posting it to Facebook so people know about it.

Ms. Murphy also talked about in the past they have worked with Phillips Exeter kids on Earth Day events. She asked everyone to think about what they could do this year. She said if they want to do this again they have to decide soon.

Also, she said National Trails Day is the first Saturday in June. Late April is registration and they need to start thinking about that as well.

### **3. Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2014**

A Motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Raub to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2014 Conservation Commission. Motion carried – all in favor with one abstention from Ms. Eberhardt.

### **4. Natural Resource Planner's Report and Correspondence**

**a) Expenditure Requests** – Ms. Murphy submitted a couple requests for funding. The first was from Peter Waltz and the Arbor Day Tree Program. For this program, Mr. Waltz goes to 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, talks about trees, and gives them each a seed to plant. He is seeking \$230 for this for supplies and such, and Ms. Murphy suggested bumping it up to \$250 to make sure he had enough. She also said if anyone is interested in helping out to tell her. A Motion was made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Mr. Campbell to expend up to \$250 for the Arbor Day Tree Program. Motion carried – all in favor.

The second request was for membership dues for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission in the amount of \$520. A Motion was made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Ms. Field to approve the \$520 for annual dues to NHACC. Motion carried – all in favor.

Ms. Murphy said the third request was reimbursement to herself in the amount of \$69.95 for a class she attended. So moved by Mr. Clement, seconded by Ms. Field. Motion carried – all in favor.

Ms. Murphy said the Saving Special Places conference is coming up. If they register before March 28 it is \$60/pp, and after March 28 it is \$75/pp. The conference is April 5 in Laconia. Ms. Raub asked if they should allocate up to a certain amount for the conference. Mr. Clement said if someone really wants to go they should let Ms. Murphy know and then, he suggested, they will vote on money after they know how many people will attend, rather than try to allocate a certain amount of money tonight.

### **b) Upcoming Events/Workshops**

Mr. Clement said the Climate Adaptation Group is a great group. He has gone to some sessions and recommends going.

The Watershed Conference is March 21, but registration is full.

Ms. Murphy talked about some events which are on the google calendar she makes available. She said you can go to the google calendar and click links for events. She said she will give instructions on how to access that.

Ms. Murphy said the Raynes Farm roof was not approved at the polls, but there is money in the budget to repair the roof. She talked about a grant, and said letters of approval would be helpful to give with the grant application. Mr. Richardson asked if anyone would want to volunteer to read the draft before it is submitted, of which a few volunteered. Ms. Raub asked when they would be able to go out to bid and get the roof started. Ms. Murphy said hopefully in late April.

Ms. Murphy said the Elliott property was also on the warrant. Voters voted in favor of acquiring the property. She talked about the process of acquiring it. She said now the committee needs to recommend to the BOS to move forward with acquiring the property. A Motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Raub to recommend to the BOS to purchase the Elliott property. Motion carried – all in favor.

### **5. Other Business**

Ms. Murphy talked about the Stewardship Network which is a program that based on getting volunteers for certain projects and events. There is currently a garlic mustard pulling project. It is an invasive plant and the town needs help pulling it. She said this is just one example of how to get volunteers for such events.

### **6. Next Meeting: Date and Agenda Items**

The next meeting will be April 8, 2014.

A Motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Raub to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole McCormack  
Recording Secretary