



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 • FAX 772-4709

www.town.exeter.nh.us

Draft Minutes Exeter Conservation Commission November 18, 2014

Call to Order:

The meeting convened at 7:01pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town Offices on the above date.

1. Introduction of Members Present: Maggie Matick, Cynthia Field, Mike Field, Jay Gregoire, Peter Richardson, Don Briselden, Ginny Raub, Carlos Guindon. Staff Present: Sarah McGraw (Recording Secretary)
2. Public Comment: None

Action Items:

1. **Minimum Impact Expedited Wetland Permit for the construction of an artificial turf field in the location of the existing athletic fields for Phillips Exeter Academy at Gilman Lane, Exeter (Tax Map 71, Lot 119).**

Mark Leighton, Director of Projects and Building Systems at Phillips Exeter Academy, spoke about the location of the proposed project on the east side of Phelps's Stadium. He discussed why the project was being done and its importance. Ken Costello from SMRT Architects and Engineers talked about the wetlands at the north, east and south side of the field. The Applicant would send the application to DES for review after Conservation Commission approval. Mr. Costello said that a wet pond is proposed at the north end of the field with 393 square feet impacted.

Ms. Raub asked about the possible dangers of using the rubber filler on the turf field. Mr. Costello said the consultants are still evaluating the use of different types of fillers. He cited studies completed on other projects where water tests came out negative for heavy metals. Ms. Raub was concerned about the discharge to the environment.

Mr. Gregoire asked about the minimum impact regulations. Mr. Costello said it had to be below 3,000 square feet. He said December 2, 2014 is the end period for comments in the state application for Alteration of Terrain. Mr. Costello said the Historical Commission found no impact. The Applicant had also gone before the Planning Board for a conceptual review.

Mr. Richardson asked about runoff from the project. Mr. Costello maintained that there were no impacts found for runoff. Mr. Richardson asked about the increase in flow from the field. Mr. Costello said there was no increase in peak runoff because of the proposed wetland.

2. Mr. Gregoire stated the options for the project: 1. The Conservation Commission approves the project and the application goes forward to the State. 2. The Conservation Commission refuses to approve and the Applicant would not be eligible for expedited review.

Ms. Raub asked about project follow up from DES. Mr. Costello said the application goes to DES as a wetland permit. Jeff Clifford from Altus Engineering said because of the Alteration of Terrain

These minutes are subject to possible corrections/revisions at a subsequent

Exeter Conservation Commission meeting.

permit, DES can call a staff member to monitor the project although it is not usual. Mr. Clifford explained the project also requires Storm water Pollution Prevention Permit (SWPP) permit.

Ms. Raub moved to approve the minimum impact expedited application, second by Mr. Guindon. VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Town of Exeter Linden and Court Street Culvert Replacement (Britt Audette, CMA Engineers).

Britt Audette from CMA Engineers described the proposed culvert replacements at Linden and Court Street. She explained the culverts were listed for rusting, holes and pitting on the structures. A single span bridge would be constructed at each location to replace the structures. Linden Street would be constructed in the first year and Court Street in the second year. Ms. Audette said a hydraulic study was conducted. The current structures would not be able to pass a 50 year storm event without topping over. Impacts of the project include grading during installation and no impacts to endangered species including the Blanding's Turtle and American Eel according to NH Fish and Game. Ms. Audette stated there is a requirement by NH Department of Environmental Services for a public hearing on the prime wetlands that are located at Linden Street culvert. The Applicant was looking for a waiver to the requirement as it was found the project would have minimum impact to the area.

Mr. Richardson asked what version of the 50 year storm event the contractors were using. Ms. Audette said they used the information from the Great Dam Feasibility Study. Jason Gallant from CMA Engineers said it was the FEMA version for a 50 year storm event which meant in today's terms it was actually a 100 year storm event. Mr. Guindon asked about the impacts of the dam removal. Mr. Gallant said the Little and Exeter Rivers converge which impact the project anyway.

Mr. Richardson asked what would happen if they did not approve the waiver and the project was delayed for one month. Mr. Gallant said they hope to wrap up plans by the end of the year.

Mr. Briselden moved to approve the application for both culvert projects as presented, second by Ms. Raub. VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Briselden moved to submit a letter to DES waiving the requirement for a public meeting on work done inside of a prime wetland buffer, second by Ms. Raub. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Exeter Snowhounds Request for Annual Use of Snowmobile Trail. Secondary request for new trail re-route to avoid sharp turn back onto the power line within the Forest Ridge Conservation Area.

Ms. Murphy who could not attend the night's meeting sent a memo to the Conservation Commission with the details of the request. A written request has not been submitted to date. Mr. Gregoire said that the proposal seemed unclear. Mr. Richardson agreed and suggested postponing until further details are submitted.

These minutes are subject to possible corrections/revisions at a subsequent

Exeter Conservation Commission meeting.

Regular Business

1. **Elliot Clean Up**

Mr. Richardson said there is a plan to have a fire in the winter to burn brush at the Elliot Property.

2. **Committee Reports**

a. **Boundary Monitoring**

Mr. Richardson noted a bent pin at the Dollof property. He said he will be gone for a week but will try to locate it when he gets back. Mr. Guindon noted logging off Commerce Road on the Little River Property and stated that the logging might have gone past the flagged boundary.

b. **Trails**

Mr. Gregoire said at Forest Ridge there is a bridge with missing planks. He said the Conservation Commission does not know who owned the bridge. Mr. Briselden suggested not getting involved. Mr. Gregoire was not sure if the bridge was on Town Property. Mr. Richardson reported on the Eagle Scout project that built a 23 foot ramp. Mr. Richardson went out with the project manager to look at the project. Ms. Raub talked about 2-8 foot sign posts costing about 100\$.

c. **Outreach**

Ms. Raub said that the rain barrel sale went well with most people who signed up picked up their barrels. Mr. Gregoire said that at least 150 passports were given out at Chile Fest. The Commission had not received any back.

3. **Approval of Minutes from October 14th, 2014.** *Mr. Briselden moved to approve minutes as corrected, second by Mr. Guindon. VOTE: Unanimous*

4. **Treasurers Report:** Mr. Richardson asked what the end of year budget looked like. Ms. Raub said there are funds available.

5. **Other Business**

Mr. Guindon reported he and Ms. Murphy went to the National Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting. Vernal pools, and climate changed were among the topics discussed.

6. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday December 9, 2014

Mr. Guindon moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Matick. VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Work Session.

The meeting went into work session at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sarah McGraw
Recording Secretary