

Draft Minutes
Exeter Conservation Commission
March 10, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting convened at 7:03 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices on the above date.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Briselden, Maggie Matick, Pete Richardson, Ginny Raub, Mike Field, Cynthia Field, Alyson Eberhardt, Jay Gregoire (Chair) STAFF PRESENT: Kristen Murphy (Natural Resource Planner), Sarah McGraw (Recording Secretary)

2. Public Comment: Comments made after action item #1.

Action Items

1. Standard Dredge and Fill for site development at 156 Epping Road to remediate unpermitted wetland impacts. Tax Map and Lot 47/01

Michael Juliano of Eaglebrook Engineering & Survey LLC described the restoration and development project for the site that had been brought to the ECC at the last meeting in February. Mr. Juliano discussed the storm water treatment of the site. Patrick Seekamp of Seekamp consulting described in detail the planting plan for the remediation including hydraulic flow of the site, native plants to be seeded and the monitoring of the site throughout the process.

Board Comments:

Ms. Raub asked if the berm was constructed or existing. Mr. Juliano responded it had been an existing berm. Ms. Raub was concerned the berm would cause standing water. Mr. Juliano replied that the berm was porous.

Mr. Richardson asked about how water flows through this property from the adjacent lands. Mr. Seekamp said wetland impacted provided an intermittent flow connection through the area. Mr. Richardson for the timeline of the project. Mr. Juliano said it would take 4-6 weeks with the plan to start in early fall. Mr. Seekamp said they may start planting native species in the middle of June. Mr. Richardson further asked about the building addition.. Mr. Juliano said the building was not increasing in surface area. Mr. Richardson asked about the existing drain and if it would connect to the created pond. It was clarified the existing parking area will be captured in that drain through catchbasins and carry water south of the property, the new parking area would be picked up by the stormwater quality swale and tree box filters into the constructed pond. In relation to a question asked about the road crossing shown on the plan. Mr. Juliano said there were no plans at this point but there is a possibility to do so in the future and they would need to come back at that point. Mr. Richardson asked about the 40' and 25' buffer. Juliano noted the water quality swale and tree box filters were beyond the 25' wetland buffer. .

Ms. Eberhardt inquired about whether the functions and values of the impacted wetland are retained in the proposed wetland. Mr. Seekamp explained based on wetlands that have not been disturbed, the wetlands are narrow and run through woods in a dense canopy of pine, hemlock and hickory. Mr. Seekamp explained further that the wooded wetland swale has high functions with

evidence of logging. There is also bird habitat where there is a mature canopy. Mr. Seekamp said the wetland discharges in the spring and recharges in the fall. He confirmed there was no evidence yet of rare species and added the intent of remediation was to bring the functions of the wetlands back to the area. Mr. Seekamp added, with two to three site visits he has only begun to look at the soil profile.

Mr. Seekamp said that the Applicant has filed with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and talked with the ECC in an informal way. The Applicant was looking for an endorsement from the ECC for the replacement of the wetlands that were lost.

Mr. Richardson asked them to clarify whether the buffer will remain undisturbed.

Ms. Raub asked about how large the new parking area would be. Mr. Juliano said about 22,000 square feet (0.5 acres).

Ms. Eberhardt inquired about why there was a proposed vehicle crossing when the alternative of not restoring the wetland in place was to avoid a crossing. Mr. Seekamp replied that the owner did not wish to have one of his sites landlocked but if there was intent to build a crossing a separate application would have to be filed with NHDES.

Mr. Briselden shared the same concern but noted on plan C-2 states it was for information only. He suggested if the Commission approved this it would be noted that we are not endorsing the crossing. The Commission has not agreed to the crossing as part of this resolution.

Mr. Gregoire moved to endorse the remediation with the caveat that the proposed vehicle access is information only.

Ms. Eberhardt asked to table the motion and asked to clarify if there were resources set aside for further monitoring after the project is complete. Mr. Seekamp said it is a condition of the permit issued is the success of the remediation. New Hampshire requires five years of monitoring after a completed project. Mr. Richardson asked if monitoring reports come to the town. Ms. Murphy added that through the wetland remediation process we typically receive reports on the monitoring.

Without further discussion Mr. Richardson seconded the motion made by Mr. Gregoire. VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Eileen Flockhart of 62 Park Court, reported to the ECC her progress made from the last meeting on the tree planting project. She said she had talked to neighbors and other residents about it and she received positive comments and further contacts to get in touch with.

2. Introduction to the application for Tuck Woods and Squire place at 80 Epping Road.

Upon request of the applicant this item was removed from the agenda.

3. Committee Reports

a. Trails: Mr. Gregoire said he was planning the next meeting and they will be discussing re-blazing trails. Ms. Murphy added that the New England Mountain Biking Association Memorandum of Understanding was recommended to the Board of Selectman for the MOU to be signed. Ms. Murphy said there were minor edits and that the insurance certificate was in the works.

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Ms. Eberhardt commented that there was a large amount of dog feces left on the Henderson-Swasey trails.

Ms. Murphy reported the Swim and Racket club wish to maintain access to the trails outside their building. Mr. Richardson commented that the right of way access differed from where the trail was located.

b. Outreach

Mr. Gregoire announced that the Rayne's Snowshoe event had a very good turnout. Ms. Murphy said there were 66 + attendees. Mr. Briselden said that the area is building a constituency. He made a suggestion for next year to have organized groups with designated leaders. Mr. Gregoire gave credit to Ben Anderson for creating this year's flyer. Ms. Raub suggested using the website Meet Up.

Ms. Eberhardt added for next time putting copies of trail maps in the barn and possibly having volunteers answer questions in the barn.

Mr. Briselden said he had sent copies of the Rayne's Barn Development Plan to the ECC members. He reported CLD Engineers had rescheduled a meeting to give a proposal.

c. Forest Management Plan

Ms. Murphy reported that Charlie Moreno had responded with two work agreements. A summer harvest is in the works and Mr. Moreno will come back with concrete numbers. Mr. Briselden said there will be an estimated \$ 15,000 and \$20,000 in revenue. He said that the ECC can start with the invasive species.

4. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2015

Mr. Richardson motioned to approve the minutes as amended, second by Ms. Field. VOTE: Unanimous

5. Natural Resource Planner's Report and Correspondence

Ms. Murphy passed out a copy of the publication Forest Notes and a reminder for the Saving Special Places Conference. Ms. Murphy requested an expense of \$205.00 for the spring tree program with Peter Waltz for the fifth graders.

Ms. Raub motioned to approve the expense of \$205.00 for the spring tree program, second by Ms. Eberhardt. VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Murphy made a request for the expense of \$572.00 up from \$520.00 for membership in the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions.

Mr. Gregoire said he supported the membership renewal.

Mr. Gregoire made a motion to approve the expense of \$572.00 for the membership renewal with the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, second by Mr. Briselden. VOTE: Unanimous.

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Ms. Murphy added that last year the ECC had offset the cost of rain barrels sold by ECC. Last year 27 barrels were sold. Ms. Raub suggested demonstrating rain barrels at the farmer's market. Mr. Gregoire commented that he did not wish to subsidize the cost of the barrels for this year. Mr. Briselden agreed and commented there were upcoming expenses.

Ms. Murphy reported the Natural Resource Conservation Service suggests having landowners sign a Compatible Use Authorization form. Mr. Briselden suggested talking to Dwayne Hyde from the South East Land Trust.

Mr. Richardson made a comment on engaging teenagers for a trail crew. There were similar trail crews throughout New Hampshire and with the Student Conservation Association. Ms. Eberhardt said she knew someone with the Acton-Wakefield Watershed Alliance that does a trail crew.

7. Next Meeting: April 14th , 2015 7:00 pm

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah McGraw