

These minutes are subject to possible correction/revision at a subsequent Exeter Conservation Commission meeting

Draft Minutes  
Exeter Conservation Commission  
June 9, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting convened at 7:02 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices on the above date.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT: Maggie Matick, Ginny Raub, Nancy Belanger (BOS Rep), Jay Gregoire, Carlos Guindon, Alyson Eberhardt, Cynthia Field, Mike Field, Bill Campbell, and Kristen Murphy
2. Public Comment: None

Action Items

1. **June 27th Trail Race Request :**

Reeder Fahnestock , one of the event organizers spoke for Sarah Sallade who could not make the meeting, briefly described the proposed trail race on June 27, 2015. The race would be held in Henderson-Swasey and Oaklands Town Forest, starting at the entrance to at the end of Commerce Way. Mr. Fahnestock said that the organizers will sweep the trail at the end of the race to pick up any trash. He said that money raised from the event will go to a non-profit organization.

*Mr. Richardson moved to approve the event application, second by Ms. Eberhardt **VOTE:**  
Unanimous*

2. **Felder Kuehl Properties Request for Reconfiguration of Trail Network and Parking 85 Epping Road Tax Map-Lot 55-75**

Mike Donahue from Donahue, Tucker, and Ciandella, representing Robert Felder spoke on proposed changes made to the trail network connected to the Meeting Place Project. Changes to the trail network include changing the approach to the trail from Epping Road so that it is along the drainage pond as noted on the submitted plan. This would put it outside of the 6' wide strip of Conservation Easement deeded to the Town. The owner would remain responsible for maintenance. Mr. Richardson had provided input on the new changes during an earlier Technical Review Committee meeting. Mr. Donahue noted that Mr. Felder is willing to considering extending the conservation easement to cover the wetlands along Epping Road. They were looking for consensus from the Conservation Commission so they may share that at the upcoming Planning Board meeting. Mr. Lynch with Civil Works discussed the current site plan.

Mr. Campbell asked about the number of deeded parking spaces they are proposing. Mr. Donahue said the applicant agreed to provide four designated parking spots to trail users.

Mr. Richardson inquired about the lack of trail specifications on the plan, and concerns about trail slope and problems with drainage. He suggested a Conservation Commission member go out to review the trail prior to approval. Mr. Donahue said that the description on the plan was not intended to be a construction description and they would be willing to accommodate that.

Mr. Campbell asked about the detention pond safety with children using the trail. Mr. Lynch said that the pond would be five feet deep with possible tall plantings to obstruct the view. Ms. Murphy observed an example of a detention pond along the Forest Ridge trail network is unfenced and has not been an issue. Jay Gregoire took consensus from the Commission to express support of the reconfiguration of the trail network with details of the Conservation Easement yet to be worked out and the items discussed by the board recommended for consideration to the Planning Board. Ms. Murphy would prepare a memo on behalf of the Commission and forward it on to the Planning Board with the items discussed and documenting overall approval.

**3. After the Fact-- Minimal Impact Expedited Wetland Permit--Unitil Valve Station --62 Epping Road, Exeter. Tax Map-Lot 63-9**

Sarah Benoit with AMEC for Unitil explained the reason for the permit. She said that while work was underway at the valve station, 9.21 square feet of Forested Wetland and 637 square feet of wet meadow were impacted without a permit. AMEC met with Unitil and DES at the beginning of May to discuss the best approach for resolving the issue and DES recommended an after the fact expedited permit. Ms. Benoit said the permit process requires signatures from the Chair of the Conservation Commission to move forward with an expedited permit.

Mr. Richardson asked when the Conditional Use Permit will be completed. Ms. Benoit said she is currently working on the application. Mr. Richardson said he was not comfortable approving the Wetland Permit until the Planning Board discussed it.

There was a question about how the plan shows wetlands before and after construction because they appear larger after construction. Ms. Benoit explained that the wetlands had been delineated before and after construction by different wetland scientists and that was when they found the violation. Ms. Murphy reminded the group that the Planning Board addresses wetland buffers and DES has jurisdiction over wetlands.

Ms. Murphy added that the original station was 15 feet by 50 feet but that it was larger in reality. It is unlikely that the Planning Board would ask for removal of the pipe in order to remove impacts from the wetlands. Mr. Guidon commented that the damage had already been done and no mitigation is being offered. There is little we can do to change the impact dramatically and we would not gain a lot by not signing the expedited permit. Ms. Eberhardt noted the impacted area along the transmission line is susceptible to invasive species. Ms. Benoit said that the area is mowed regularly as part of maintenance.

Discussion ensued about informing the Planning Board of the Conservation Commission's concerns about invasive species mitigation. It was decided to send a memo to the Planning Board with concerns about the uplands.

*Mr. Gregoire motioned to approve the Expedited Minimum Impact with the memo to the Planning Board, second by Mr. Guindon. **VOTE:** Unanimous*

## **1. Committee Reports**

### **2. Trails**

- a. Mr. Richardson said that he and Carlos continued flagging a trail connection from the Old Garrison Lane where it could connect to the future Exeter Swim and Racquet Club on Continental to the rest of the Little River trail network. There is also a deed 10' wide easement on the Monahan property along two properties that could also connect to the Little River trail network. They along with Mr. Campbell had met with the Economic Development Director so that he was aware of the right of way during discussions with the land owner.
- b. A trailhead post has been added to the Dolloff Farms Drive access point to the Little River Conservation Area
- c. Ms. Raub and Ms. Field agreed to assist with painting the trail head posts.
- d. Mr. Campbell discussed the potential for a bridge building workshop with the Little River Conservation Area. It was decided that may be a good project for next year given the limited funds after the other signs and blazing that were determined to be a priority.
- e. Pete has continued to work on the boy scout bridge between the skate park and Morrissette property.

### **3. Outreach**

- a. Ms. Raub reported that 15 rain barrels were sold. There was a suggestion to put a flyer in the water bills to install rain barrels as a water saver.
- b. Ms. Raub asked if the schedule for the harvest was on target. Ms. Murphy said that no start date was set but will probably occur late summer early fall which may give more lead time for outreach. The Committee discussed the development of a flyer. Mr. Richardson said that there should be an advertisement in the Exeter Newsletter. Ms. Eberhardt volunteered to make a flyer if others will review it and help post the flyer around town. Mr. Gregoire said he will send it to the trails committee listserv as well as help with posting. Mr. Guindon said he may be available to distribute it at the trail race.
- c. Ms. Murphy announced the date for Fall Festival on August 22, 2015. If the Conservation Commission applies by July 17, 2015 they will get a discount. Ms. Eberhardt commented that it was a big success last year and thinks the Commission should do it again.

- d. Mr. Richardson talked about the trail passport program. Ms. Murphy said since some of the posts have been vandalized, new rubbing markers need to be made and one additional post is needed. She reported that some passports have been returned to her office. Ms. Murphy suggested getting all new rubbing markers.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Ms. Raub distributed the report and said there is \$3,945 in the conservation fund account with the majority of funds as restricted. Ms. Raub said that \$742 were in unrestricted. Mr. Gregoire noted the sizable amount of restricted funds. Ms. Murphy said that she was not sure that all the funds listed as restricted are actually restricted. The LCHIP reimbursement was for monitoring of the Raynes Farm and she believed it wasn't truly considered restricted. Mr. Gregoire asked for a discussion of the restricted/unrestricted funds at the next meeting.
- b. Ms. Raub also reported there are some outstanding expenditures that have not yet been processed in the Town Budget for the spring tree program, printing of deeds and two workshops.

**5. Approval of minutes**

- a. *Move the seedling distribution to the outreach section of minutes, add Mr. Campbell to list of attendees, p. 2 forester contract update needs to be revisited to ensure it clearly states we would have two contracts with Mr. Moreno, clarify that harvest payment will not be known until the harvest is implemented, flagging on the trails is to help forester in laying out the harvest path, Don B discussed the importance of explaining to the public why it's healthy to thin out the forest, under officer nominations should state Mr. Guindon, Ms. Raub request to be appointed, Mr. and Ms. Field request to be alternates, BRAP should be VRAP. With these changes Ms. Field moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Ms. Raub. **VOTE: Unanimous***

**6. Natural Resource Planner's Report and Correspondence**

- a. Ms. Murphy described a handout with active projects that are being reviewed/implemented. Not all come before the Conservation Commission so she wanted them to be sure the commission was aware of them.
- b. Ms. Murphy submitted on behalf of the town and the Citizens for Responsible Growth a grant application to the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Project. The grant would be used to set up a group of people from varying backgrounds from the town to work on developing fertilizer setbacks from wetlands.
- c. Ms. Murphy said that Russell Dean has asked to research the membership terms of the Conservation Commission. The terms should change out 1/3 of the Commission each year.

**7. Other Business:**

- a. Ms. Raub said that there will be another New England barn talk in Kensington New Hampshire on June 24.
- b. Ms. Eberhardt reported on a new group of seacoast conservation commission members getting together to discuss news from each commission and ideas that they might share. She said she will share the next meeting date.

- c. Mr. Richardson said that there is money for watershed projects from the NHDES with the deadline in mid-May. Ms. Murphy , Ms Raub , and Mr Richardson most recent projects at the Brickyard Pond Residential neighborhood at the end of project tour.

**8. Next Meeting: July 14, 2015**

- a. *Ms. Eberhardt moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Gregoire. **VOTE: Unanimous***
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Sarah McGraw