

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

## Draft Minutes

Exeter Conservation Commission

July 14, 2015

### **Call to Order**

The meeting convened at 7:25 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices on the above date.

1. **Members Present:** Ginny Raub, Don Briselden, Pete Richardson, Alyson Eberhardt, Carlos Guindon, STAFF PRESENT: Kristin Murphy (Natural Resource Planner), Sarah McGraw (Recording Secretary)
2. **Public Comment:** None

### **Action Items**

#### **1. Morrissette Interpretive Trail , Passive Recreation interpretation**

Tim Foret, teacher at Great Bay Charter School, expressed his interest in integrating his curriculum with bringing students out into the Morrissette property. Mr. Foret is a science teacher and would like to introduce the students to some interpretive trails. Mr. Foret mentioned that there is new development next to the School's building with upgraded stormwater requirements that he would like to bring to the school.

### **Commission Comments**

Ms. Raub said she welcomed the idea. Ms. Eberhardt asked what grades he teaches. Mr. Foret said he teaches grades 9-12. Ms. Eberhardt commented she would like the commission to have space to weigh in on the ideas Mr. Foret inquired about bringing his students out onto the property. Mr. Guindon suggested letting the students know about the type of easement on the property. Ms. Murphy added it should be known that the property was owned by the school at one point and was then used for offsite mitigation. Mr. Foret said he would like the students to adopt stewardship practices. Mr. Briselden asked about the disc golf idea that was mentioned in the email description. Mr. Foret said that he had looked at other disc golf courses in the area and thought the property could use the disc golf course as a way to attract students and also use as an educational tool. He said he was not sure if the use is considered passive. Mr. Foret said for about 18 holes, 34 acres is needed but 8 holes could fit on to the Morrissette property. Ms. Raub asked about any conflict that could occur with the course. Mr. Foret replied there could be interpretive signage at each site on the course.

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**Public Comment:**

Don Clement, Exeter Resident commented that when he was on the Conservation Commission when the new high school was built, he had lobbied to preserve the 36 acres. He said that the property has a unique ecosystem and thought that a disc golf course would take away from the original vision. Mr. Clement agreed that continued use of the property for education is an acceptable use but only used as passive recreation.

Mr. Guindon agreed that he thought the disc golf course was beyond use of the property but that educational use is appropriate.

Mr. Foret said that with such a large space, it would give a sense of privacy which may lead to neglect. The disc golf course may help with taking responsibility for taking care of the property. Ms. Eberhardt said she was not sure if disc golf is a legal use of the property but welcomes the idea for another property. Ms. Eberhardt also said that one idea for curriculum would be to conduct a long term study of the ecosystem. Ms. Murphy added that experimenting with mowing frequency could also be part of a study of the diversity of the habitats. SOAK New Hampshire is looking to give funding to sites who wish to add green infrastructure to sites.

Mr. Foret agreed to create a proposal with the indented curriculum for the coming year.

**2. Restricted Funds**

Ms. Murphy suggested tabling the discussion until chair Jay Gregoire is present at the meeting.

**3. Bylaws**

Ms. Murphy commented that treasurer and secretary could be combined to one position. In Article 6 instead of a list of different committees there could be room for ad hoc committees. Ms. Raub said she would like to see a clarification of membership. Ms. Raub went through a few more sections of the bylaws. Mr. Guindon suggested a work session for the next meeting dedicated to bylaw.

**4. Lease with Historic Society for Storage of Artifacts at Raynes Barn**

Ms. Murphy said that after reviewing with legal counsel, a lease is finished for storage of Historic Society items in the Raynes barn. The agreement allows the Conservation Commission to open the barn to the public while storing historic artifacts. Mr. Briselden asked if the items were the responsibility of the Historic Society. Ms. Murphy gave the example of Stuart Farm, where a barn is leased for storage of hay. *Mr. Briselden moved to forward the lease to the Board of Selectmen*, Ms. Eberhard asked how would the large object be kept safe from visitors to the barn. Ms. Murphy said that the items are to be kept in a section of the barn that is not

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visible to the general public. *Mr. Richardson seconded the motion from Mr. Briselden. VOTE: Unanimous*

## **5. Committee Reports**

### **a. Trails:**

Ms. Murphy reported that remnants of a campsite were found at the McDonald property. She said a date for cleanup will be set and noted that the site was not found on the typical route. Ms. Murphy added that a blazing weekend is in the works and that the Oakland's trails are all painted red. She suggested an adopt-a-trail program. Mr. Guindon said that a portion of the field at the McDonald property needs to be mowed. Ms. Eberhardt volunteered her push mower for the job.

### **b. Outreach**

Ms. Murphy talked about the posters for the Henderson-Swasey trail race. Ms. Raub mentioned a thanks should be given to Eastern Lantern for giving up part of their parking lot for the event in past races. Ms. Murphy said the race organizers had sent \$400 to the Conservation Commission and suggested a thank you presentation at a Board of Selectmen meeting as well as a formal letter.

### **c. Property Monitoring**

Ms. Murphy reported that the Chamberlin Parcel did not need to be monitored and the Smith Parcel was required.

- 6. *Approval of minutes:*** *Ms. Raub made some suggested edits. Mr. Richardson moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015, second by Ms. Eberhardt. VOTE: Unanimous*

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

Ms. Murphy reported that the PREP Assessment grant had been awarded to Exeter for fertilizer setbacks from wetlands with help from the Citizens group for Responsible Growth. A kick off meeting will be the first week of August. Ms. Murphy also reported that the 80 Epping Road project will be at the Planning Board meeting in August and at the Conservation Commission meeting on August 11, 2015. A joint site walk is in the works for the first week of September.

## **8. Other Business**

Ms. Raub asked if the Conservation Commission would like to be a SELT member for another year for \$100.

*Mr. Richardson moved to expend \$100 dollars to renew membership with SELT, second by Ms. Eberhardt. VOTE Unanimous*

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Ms. Raub reported that a letter was received from LCHIP thanking the Commission for taking care of the Raynes property which came with a \$400 check.

The Exeter Chamber of Commerce is holding Fall Fest on August 22, 2015 at 10 am. There was discussion about having a table at the event. Some Commission members would be out of town and the members present at the meeting did not want to volunteer others until they knew their commitment. Ms. Murphy would send out an email asking if other members were interested.

Ms. Raub noted a letter from the Mason Conservation Commission asking for signatures to oppose the Kinder-Morgan Pipeline that would travel across the southern tier of New Hampshire. The Commission decided if members wanted to read the letter and sign as solo signatories but not as the commission as a whole.

**9. Next Meeting:** August 11, 2015

Ms. Raub added there is an event hosted by the New Hampshire Timberland Owners on July 27, 2015 in Hillsborough.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah McGraw, Recording Secretary

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