

Exeter Conservation Commission

November 10, 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

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:** Bill Campbell, Ginny Raub, Carlos Guindon, Nancy Belanger, Peter Richardson, Jay Gregoire, Alyson Eberhardt

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy (Natural Resource Planner), Sarah McGraw (Recording Secretary)

2. **Public Comment:** None

Action Items

1. **Current Conditions Report for Callahan Property**

Ms. Murphy explained that the Town holds executory interests and South East Land Trust holds the easement of the Callahan Property. The Commission has met with the landowner who seemed to be confused as to the restrictions of the easement. SELT and Ms. Murphy met with the landowner to discuss issues. The landowner has hired Mark West as consultant to restore the encroachments on the property. A baseline documentation of the conservation land is required because of the encroachments. Ms. Murphy recommended modifications in the current conditions report. The Conservation Commission would sign off on the current conditions report. Ms. Murphy said ideally a baseline report would be completed for each property. Mr. Gregoire asked if the Commission would hire someone to create the baseline documentation for other property. Ms. Murphy said there are many properties in need of baseline documentation.

Mr. Campbell motioned to authorize the chair, Mr. Gregoire to sign off on the current conditions report on the Callahan property second by Ms. Raub. VOTE: Unanimous

2. **Expenditure Request - \$30 LWCF Signs**

Through DRED, the Conservation Commission received grant money from the Land Water Conservation Fund for Oaklands, Allen Street and Smith-Page property. The grant requires all properties be indicated by a sign. Ms. Murphy bought the signs and is looking to receive reimbursement.

Mr. Richardson moved to expend \$30.00 for property signs, second by Mr. Gregoire. VOTE: Unanimous

3. Committee Reports

a. Trails

Mr. Gregoire said that fire chief Jason Fritz requested the New England Mountain Bike Patrol (NEMBA) agreement signed because they received a certificate of insurance. The Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen will sign off on the agreement.

Mr. Gregoire restated the recommendation that the BOS to sign off on the NEMBA patrol agreement second by Mr. Richardson. VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Murphy said that UNH Cooperative extension received a grant through the National Park Service on the Trail Finder Project. The project is a website where all trail data would be submitted to. Ms. Murphy said that Exeter would participate with the help of Cooperative Extension.

Mr. Gregoire noted that he has received emails from bikers with concerns of private property owners placing no trespassing signs on some trails. The emails asked if the properties were indeed private or public trails. Mr. Gregoire and Ms. Murphy responded to bikers that the land is private.

Ms. Murphy said that the Henderson-Swasey Town Forest has been vandalized by people cutting through the locked gate and dumping trash.

Mr. Gregoire mentioned that the letter to the editor he wrote about leash laws made it to the paper. Mr. Guindon asked if there are any off leash locations. Ms. Murphy said that currently there are not any off leash locations. There was more discussion on signs placed around properties to encourage leash use.

Mr. Richardson said the trails committee at the Riverwoods wished to put a sign on the Jolly Rand trail at the crossroad. The Commission agreed to allow the Riverwoods Trail Committee to put up signs.

Mr. Gregoire proposed a stock sign placed at the entrances to the Town Forest. Ms. Murphy said that signs are \$20 per sign.

Mr. Gregoire motioned to approve up to \$100.00 for informational signs on leashing dogs, second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous

b. Outreach

Ms. Murphy reported that through the Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership (PREP) grant the Healthy Lawns Clean Water initiative tabled at the Household Hazardous Waste Day. The group has drafted a fertilizer zoning amendment.

c. Property Monitoring

Mr. Richardson commented that on one property (Woodland Park) there is a 900 foot buffer that took 12 hours to monitor. The problem is the abutting landowners have

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encroached on the Town property but the pins are difficult to find and the landowners have left items such as trash, boats and sheds over their property lines. Mr. Richardson asked how the Commission should handle the issue. Mr. Richardson wished to get the landowners together for a discussion. There was discussion on surveying the property which is costly. The tax maps show pin locations but some of the pins cannot be found. Mr. Guindon said this conversation ties into having a baseline assessment. There are also no signs where the right of ways are located.

4. Treasurers Report

Ms. Raub reported that there is \$7,570.23 of approved expenditures. \$ 1400.00 was set aside for forestry work. \$2,486. 77 remain in the budget and 3,012.27 remains on hand in the bank. \$1332.87 has not been resolved by the Finance Department.

Mr. Richardson moved to approve the budget second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous

5. Approval of Minutes: October 13, 2015

Mr. Campbell motioned to approve the minutes as amended, second by Mr. Guindon. VOTE: Unanimous

6. Other Business

Ms. Belanger reported on her attendance at the annual meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. She attended a permaculture workshop.

7. Next meeting: December 8, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah McGraw