

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

Exeter Conservation Commission
DRAFT MINUTES
January 12, 2016

Call to Order

Ms. Raub, acting chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices on the above date.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Clement (BOS Rep), Don Briselden, Bill Campbell, Ginny Raub, Pete Richardson, Alyson Eberhardt

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

2. Public Comment: None

Action Items

1. Snowshoe Hullabaloo February Snow Shoe Race Even Request February 20 (Ri Fahnstock, Sarah Sallade

Sarah Sallade spoke about the snowshoe Hullabaloo event for February 20, 2016. She said the event will begin at 6 Commerce Way starting at 11:00 am with registration at 9:30 am. She commented that last year's event had been successful. She then outlined the plan for race cancellation. There will be online registration the week before the race. She and Ri will make a decision on race cancellation before February 12th. Ri said he is in charge of logistics and added that there may be issues coordinating the race with tree harvesting activities. The route may have to be re-routed. Ginny asked what they need for snow cover to have a race. Ri said at least 6 inches.

Mr. Richardson moved to approve the application second by Mr. Briselden. VOTE: Unanimous

2. Standard Dredge and Fill Application for a Light Industrial/Distribution Facility at 12 Continental Drive, Tax Map 46, Lot 1 (Jim Petropulos, Brendan Quigley)

James Petropulos, civil engineer with Hayner/Swansen introduced himself and was accompanied by Brendan Quigley representing Gove Environmental Services. Mr. Petropulos said the Applicant was seeking a standard dredge and fill permit approval. The Applicant is also meeting with the Exeter Planning Board for a conditional use permit. The property abuts Continental Drive, FW Webb, and conservation land to the north. Eight lots were created on the property of which four were developed into what is known as a "pork chop lot." Mr. Petropulos said the lot was mostly wooded. The wetlands have been surveyed and poorly drained wooded wetlands were found. Mr. Petropulos explained the facility will consist of offices and an assembly distribution facility. The goal is to retain a New Hampshire business.

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There will be a shared entrance with FW Webb and a 99 space parking lot. The facility will connect with the town water and sewer. Mr. Petropulos explained that there will be 6,178 square feet of wetland impacts and 59,600 square feet of buffer impacts. Storm water treatment will consist of curbing and catch basins as well as planting in wet areas with aquatic plants. The Applicant has filed with the Department of Environmental Services for a dredge and fill permit. Mr. Petropulos explained the Conditional Use Permit from section 9.1.6.A, Wetlands Conservation Overlay District. Mr. Petropulos said that the applicant has tried to minimize affects to nearby wetlands. The Applicant is not proposing industrial discharge and there will not be detrimental affects to public safety.

Mr. Briselden asked about draining and curbing. Mr. Petropulos answered that curbing and catch basins will be used as well as controlling runoff. Driveway runoff will be captured and piped into catch basins as well as runoff from the roof. Mr. Briselden inquired about percolation. Mr. Petropulos said that the soil density was tight with not much recharge. A precast box will slow down the filtering process. Mr. Campbell asked where all the water will run to. Mr. Quigley said that the wetlands are part of Little River and Bloody Brook complex. Mr. Campbell was concerned with drainage into an abutting lot. Mr. Mr. Petropulos said that future developments will sit higher than the wetlands.

Mr. Richardson said the wetlands are lower than the parking lot. Mr. Petropulos said that the land was 7 to 8 feet above the wetland. Mr. Richardson asked if the surveyor has surveyed the property corners. Mr. Petropulos said that at the end of construction there will be monuments set down. Mr. Quigley said that the conservation land has been marked. The property corners are present as well as markers for the conservation corners. Mr. Briselden commented that the Commission spends time searching for monuments in the field.

Ms. Raub asked about the TRC meeting. Mr. Petropulos said that they will be resubmitting changes made from the TRC meeting to the town. One of the buffers was mislabeled and corrected. There were no big storm water changes or land development changes.

Mr. Briselden recognized a discrepancy with the buffer square footage. Mr. Petropulos said this will be corrected. Ms. Eberhardt asked about the seeding plan. Mr. Petropulos said that there will be a better buffer. Trees, shrubs and aquatic plants will also be incorporated.

Mr. Briselden moved the recommendation of concurrence with the application and to send a letter of recommendation to NHDES, second by Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Richardson asked if there were any invasive species that could be spread during construction. Mr. Quigley said after his investigation, the area doesn't seem to be affected by invasive species.

*With no further discussion, **VOTE:** Unanimous*

*Mr. Briselden moved to send a memo recommending the conditional use permit as presented to the Planning Board, second by Mr. Campbell. **VOTE:** Unanimous*

3. Raynes Foundation Repairs Engineering

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Mr. Briselden referred to a memo he submitted via email and in the packets about repairing the foundation of the barn. Mr. Briselden recommended an estimate not to exceed \$2,000 for the north east foundation.

Mr. Campbell said that they should do an engineering report and estimate. Mr. Briselden said this would put them in a position for a warrant article for 2017 as the cost of the repairs could exceed \$40,000. For this reason an engineering study and cost estimate would be required.

Mr. Campbell motioned to hire Emanuel Engineering for the study not to exceed \$2,000, second by Ms. Eberhardt.

Mr. Clement asked if the town was considered as an engineering consultant. Mr. Briselden said that he has talked to the town and this type of work is not generally what they do but have been helpful in other aspects of the barn.

Without further discussion, VOTE: Unanimous

Ms. Murphy explained that the proposed budget for 2016 was \$10,058.00. Ms. Murphy handed out the requested budget. Some numbers needed to be moved around based on increased costs which are why there is \$2,000 available in the budget for engineering.

4. All boards meeting – February 10, Exeter Public Library 6 pm

Ms. Raub said that one talking point for the meeting is the MRI report and how the boards can work together. Ms. Raub said that Jay Gregoire met with the Planning Board. Ms. Murphy said that the outcome of the meeting was to communicate more often and if the Commission has a recommendation, to put in memo format.

Mr. Briselden asked if tonight's discussion fit the recommendation. Ms. Murphy said that due to the Planning Board schedule applications will not be able to meet the Commission first.

Ms. Murphy said that she had sent out a copy of the MRI report. Ms. Eberhardt suggested childcare be available at the All Boards Meeting. Ms. Murphy said that a contact from Phillips Exeter Academy community action group offers childcare services. Mr. Clement said he will also bring this up at the BOS meeting.

5. Committee Reports

a) Property Management

i. Timber Harvest Update

Ms. Murphy said there was a Conservation Commission special session in December where Sweets Logging was contracted for timber harvesting services. Charlie Moreno put together a contract which went before legal counsel.

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Ms. Murphy said that legal counsel suggested the town get reimbursed for what the mill paid for the timber and get invoiced for expenses. Language was added about the logging company having responsibility for leaving the site and out into the main road. Ms. Murphy suggested that the Commission authorize the Commission chair to sign the logging contract.

Ms. Raub clarified that changes were presented to the logging company by Charlie Moreno. Ms. Murphy said that the logger is ready to work but it is weather dependent. The logging company is ready to go as soon as contract is signed.

Mr. Briselden said that the Commission needs to decide who will sign the contract. Discussion ensued about how to get the contract to the chair.

Mr. Campbell moved to allow the Chair or appointee to sign the harvesting contract second by Mr. Richardson. VOTE: Unanimous

ii. Chamberlin Easement Paddock Notification

Ms. Murphy said she had met with the new landowners. They discussed the conditions of the easement and siting for four horse paddocks within the twelve acre exclusion area which overlaps 50 feet to the west and 100 feet to the south into the conservation easement. This requires notification to Commission should the landowners want to exercise their reserved rights. Ms. Murphy said after checking, an Alteration of Terrain Permit is not required which is waived for agricultural areas. The reason for the conservation land overlap is that there are soils that the landowners want to avoid.

The owners provided notification to Ms. Murphy and she allowed them to move forward. Ms. Murphy said she believes that they are fit as good stewards of the land.

Mr. Clement said that RCCC could be a good resource for manure management. Ms. Murphy spoke with Glen Greenwood Interim Planner to see if this is considered agricultural. Mr. Greenwood provided a best practices book.

b. Trails

i. Closure Process for Harvest

Ms. Murphy said that trail closure is necessary for public safety. The southern part of the trail network is within harvest area one and two. It is up to the Commission to put up posting on the trails. Someone would have to change the signs as the harvesting operation moves. Ms. Murphy said that the Public Works Department has old barricades not in use.

Mr. Briselden said that he will be available to move signs. It was not certain how long the harvesting would take place in each section. Ms. Murphy said that they could close off the whole southern

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portion to walkers if need be. Ms. Eberhardt said she could be of assistance to post signs along with Mr. Campbell. Mr. Briselden said that flagging and barriers would suffice for notification. Ms. Murphy also suggested sawhorses. Ms. Murphy drafted up a closure sign for the trails and notification on the town website with a map of locations.

ii. Sign estimate

c. Outreach

i. Bobcat Hunting Legislation

Ms. Raub said that they had received a letter from Stoddard Conservation Commission about the proposed bobcat hunting legislation. Mr. Campbell said that he thinks the legislation is premature. Ms. Eberhardt said she had read that there will be an estimated population increase of 70 bobcats. And there is some room to trap.

Mr. Clement asked if there might be a lottery. Ms. Eberhardt said she was not positive. Mr. Briselden said that the action is to support the draft letter from Stoddard. Ms. Eberhardt asked if this was within the Commission purview. Ms. Murphy said that there is precedence for joining with other conservation commissions. Ms. Murphy said the options are to not sign off in opposition, to sign individually or to sign as a Commission.

Mr. Campbell asked if there have been evidence of bobcats in this area. Ms. Murphy said that they put out trap cameras in conjunction with UNH and haven't seen evidence of bobcats. Ms. Murphy said that the legislation going before the State in the coming months. Ms. Raub didn't feel the board has enough information to decide. Ms. Eberhardt suggested letting people make their own decision on signing the petition. Mr. Campbell asked what further information was needed to make a decision. Discussion ensued about what information is available on bobcat population numbers. Ms. Eberhardt said that the anticipated number of additional bobcats is 70. Mr. Briselden said that the letter stated 1,100 bobcats.

Mr. Clement also said he does not know enough about this to sign the petition as a Commission. Ms. Eberhardt suggested for the Commission to not sign if there is no consensus. Mr. Briselden and Ms. Raub agreed. Ms. Raub said seeing no consensus that individuals sign the letter on their own.

ii. Soak NH Spring Rain Garden Installation

Ms. Murphy said that Mr. Richardson, Ms. Raub and Ms. Murphy had met with Soak NH to look at properties for a rain garden installation project. They chose Marshall Farms as a site for a rain

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garden. Ms. Murphy said she did not think that the Commission has enough funds to help finance a rain garden but as a Commission reach out to the West Side Drive neighborhood. Soak NH would help with the installation but they want locals to reach out to homeowners.

Ms. Murphy suggested looking at Cockly road in Portsmouth to see examples of smaller rain gardens that would fit into similar neighborhoods in Exeter. She suggested once they find an interested homeowner to have an event showcasing the rain garden.

6. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Raub reported that the 2015 budget is \$10, 057 dollars. Funds approved for expenditure by November 30, 2015: \$1023,53.

Final Total: \$1,332.00

Cash on hand: \$ 3,012.27

Ms. Raub said she will try and resolve the discrepancy with the finance department.

Mr. Campbell motioned to approve the budget, second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous

7. Minutes from December 8, 2015, Site Walk from December 15, 2015, Minutes from December 15, 2015

Mr. Campbell motioned to accept the site walk minutes, second by Mr. Briselden. VOTE: 5 Yays : 1 Abstention

Mr. Campbell motioned to accept the minutes from December 15, 2015 second by Mr. Briselden. VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Campbell motioned to accept the minutes from December 8, 2015, second by Ms. Raub. VOTE: Unanimous

8. Other Business

Ms. Raub asked if there will be a snowshoe event at Raynes given the full moon is on February 22. Mr. Campbell suggested Sunday February 21st. Mr. Briselden suggested settling on the 21st and talking about it at the next meeting.

Mr. Briselden commented that they should reach out to the Police Department and Public Works on the logging operation. Ms. Murphy said from the special meeting held, the goal is to do both harvest areas at one time to

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make use of time. They will have to pay out of town funds which are why the budget is so tight.

*Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn second by Mr. Richardson. **VOTE:** Unanimous.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Ms. Raub said the chamber will not hold their fall festival. She suggested the Conservation Commission organizing a fall festival in coordination with the Recreation department.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

9. Next meeting: February 9, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah McGraw