

**Draft Minutes**  
**EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**May 10, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The session was called to order by Chair Carlos Guindon at 7:00 pm.

**1. Introduction of Members Present:**

Virginia Raub, Andrew Koff (7:06 pm), Chair Carlos Guindon, William Campbell, Anne Surman (BOS presentative), Todd Piskovitz (new appointee), Alternate Member

Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner, and David Pancoast, Recording Secretary were present for staff. Members of the public noted below were present as well.

**2. Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Event Request** for a Trail Race within the Exeter Town Forests on June 25, 2016

Sarah Sallade and Ri Fahnestock were present to discuss this matter and submitted a signed agreement for the proposed event. The race date is 6/25, the same date as Summer Fest, so their officials will direct race participants to Summer Fest afterward, to enhance that event. They expect the usual 150 runners, but there might be a few more.

The race is held in Henderson/Swasey Property and then proceeds under the bridge to the Oakland property. They use their own volunteers to manage the race. The parking will be at the factory and the property at the end owned by Brian Richards. They have had past permission to park in their 2 parking lots. They contacted Jonathan Shakmaster about starting the race on his property again as in the past,

but they haven't heard back yet this year. The development that is planned there should be after the race but the presenters will come back if they need a different plan. They discussed start of the race matters and prefer to start at the "lollipop" if they can. They hope for a little over 150 runners this year. Also touting NH Trail Series this year. It appeared in "Trail Runners" Magazine online. Exeter is a trail town and some businesses were mentioned in the article, so it's good publicity. Some more is coming down the line due to selection for the USA Track and Field Northeast [Regional] Qualifier to be held here for 2017, and they might have it here for two years-2017 and 2018.

Parking was discussed if there are over 150 runners. They intend to reach out to the Ice Rink for extra parking, if they have to. The logged area has been checked out and all trail markers are still there so they will still use that section. No logs are in the way. They have notified runners about the logging aspect.

The Chair added that this event might be used as an educational moment regarding the harvest of timber. The presenters encouraged anyone coming out for the race date to have a table and/or flyers, etc. There are a lot of folks there who don't run the race. The Chair agreed it might be good to have someone there about the timber harvest project.

Mr. Campbell moved approval of the race as presented. Ms. Surman seconded and there was unanimous approval.

## **2. Treasurers Report:**

Ms. Raub, who is stepping down as board Treasurer after this session, went over the Treasurer's Report through 3/31 that she prepared. It shows what was budgeted, expended and the available amount, which is \$4,197.04. The unrestricted fund balance is \$3,112.43 plus a check for \$400, which will show in the April report. This report comports with the Town's report. Andrew Koff is taking on the Treasurer's position. The Board thanked her for being its treasurer for so long. Mr. Campbell made a motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Surman. The Report was approved unanimously. Ms. Raub signed this last report she prepared.

### 3. Committee Reports:

#### a. Property Management

##### i. Allen Street Property Inspection Follow-Up

Ms. Murphy described this small Conservation property behind Allen St. that was acquired through grass roots efforts of locals. The locals made personal contributions toward acquisition and a grant was obtained. The Town acquired the property. In the 1990's when it was purchased, no baseline report was done. It's important to have one. Every year some encroachments and such appear on it during annual inspections. No enforcement was ever conducted. Finally the Town took action this past fall. Encroachments were identified. All property lines were identified by stakes and/or markers but they were placed on the nearest tree, so the lines are not exact and there was some local resident confusion. A letter was sent to residents to remove all encroachments by May 2016. Some encroachment material is gone, shed encroachments moved, etc. She would like a date for a Commission visit, by at least some members. The owners there need to meet members. They are good stewards of the property. Also in packet is the plan for this parcel.

Bill and Donna Taylor, live at end of Allen St and Kristen met with them last week, they own the ROW on plan used to get to the land. We found pins at back of property but not at the front of the property, they have a shed on neighbors' property. That neighbor is not concerned but wants to know what the ConCom will do. Concern while walking the property vis-s-vis not knowing exactly where you are, unless have all points marked, therefore taking encroachment action is a risk. Back of property not so much an issue. This is different from other properties we have. If a survey is going to be considered, we should be sure it is necessary and will help and also be the best use of funds.

Mr. Campbell asked about plan showing pins and the Taylor property. There was discussion on the shed situation there and on locating unfound pins. Ms. Murphy didn't inspect it all. The Chair said he went out there and wondered how posts factored in as they seem to disappear. Mr. Campbell said it was a nice

piece and locals use it and others probably use it too. I'll go out to try to find missing markers. Ms. Surman said she would go too. Mr. Campbell suggested making a date and time. Ms. Raub asked if there was any interest in homeowners being there too? [boundary marker discussion]. Ms. Murphy said that she got an email from one resident that their shed is NOT on their own property, so they are concerned now and they are older residents. That's why it is important to document encroachments and perhaps use that documentation as a baseline. We notify the owners of easement properties before we go on them to inspect. We don't do that for town owned properties. Mr. Campbell said that they should send a letter to same people that we are going out there and they can join us if they want to. The Chair said that there is not much growth yet, so a good time to do this. Will be poison ivy soon. Discussion of site visit date and time ensued. It was decided that they would go out on Friday 5/20 at 3 pm. A letter will be sent by Ms. Murphy. Park up the street near the Laslows' house.

#### b. Trails

Ms. Murphy stated that she didn't recall if sent out to Commission. Jonathan Shakmaster owns property at end of Commerce Way at the cul-de-sac which is a trail entry access to Swasey. First 800 ft is private property. That access point will be closed due to development there, from 5/10 to 5/18. The activity might impact trail. He is not going to improve the trail afterward, but he is not opposed to public doing it.

Discussion on setting up a trails meeting was held. Trail was put in a couple of years ago, I was recently walking in there and the trail now goes on town side and comes out elsewhere. Ms. Murphy said it was an important topic for trails committee and how to handle it. [discussion was held on extent of the activity]

Mr. Campbell asked if there is a trail off Bob Felder's land at Epping Rd? Ms. Murphy said he did put a trail behind the three buildings and the commercial development plans to put one in as well. Ms. Raub asked if the trail goes with the sale of the land? [consensus was yes]. Ms. Murphy stated that the property

managers/owners are required to develop in accord with an approved plan and the Planning Board process. Their inspector is overseeing it if there is one.

Chair: I was on the Little River Trail recently and where it goes over river, someone has started working on the trail with raking and clearing. Some chainsaw work was done on it. Don't know what's going on there with the clean-up. Ms. Murphy explained about Garrison Lane and this trail. There was discussion on the clean up scope and location.

### c. Outreach

Ms. Murphy said that on 5/14 at Swasey parkway, there is a lawn care techniques workshop. Simple basic steps for lawn care, soil sampling analysis. They are raffling a rain barrel. Exeter is selling them for \$79 but first 10 buyers get \$20 off each barrel as an incentive. She hopes the ConCom can come but spread the word. Immediately following that, Exeter Fish and Game is conducting the last annual fish ladder tour. Ladder comes out with the dam removal. It's amazing to see it and the native fish. Mr. Campbell asked if Wednesday night videos still being done? That was excellent. Ms. Murphy said yes, there were close to 50 people there. Very successful and good feedback was received. Ms. Raub said that Dover is using organics for two of their parcels. Ms. Murphy said that in town, the ballpark and downtown areas are being treated with organics. Organic care is incredible.

### i. Neighborhood Rain Garden Event (May 21) and Install (June 9, 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> ?)

Ms. Murphy announced that with NH Health Group Organization and DPW, there will be a rain garden presentation and a free rain garden is being given away, to be installed by volunteers.

## ii. National Trails Day (June 4)

Ms. Raub said that for last 4 years we've honored national trails association. We've done in the past for Henderson, Swasey, Oakland and others. Haven't done anything with Morrisette. Planting milkweed for butterflies. There is a story in Exeter Kindergarten classes which is "Gotta Go, Gotta Go" where a butterfly migrates to Mexico. She suggests the Commission enlarge the story, laminate it and put it up in the area. [discussion on Cape Cod Monarch program]. Native milkweed seeds, need to be cold proofed for 4 wks before ready to go. Parents could read kids the story. Cost is \$75 for ¼ ounce of milkweed seeds. You make "bombs" with seeds and clay. Trying to determine the costs, the high end would be \$175 (very high estimate). Wouldn't be too demanding. Wouldn't be all day. 9:30 am to noon. Readers would be there and families could do it on their own. Chair: I'd love to help. [discussion] Ms. Murphy said that if it expanded beyond the area planted, it would be a great thing. Discussion was held on the budget issues. The budget is tight, but after expenses for mowing, etc., there would be about \$600 for trails work. Maybe a portion could do be sued to do this. The Commission can shift money in categories if it wants to. Probably it would come out of trails work money. Ms. Raub explained the reader aspect. Mr. Campbell moved to fund up to \$175 for this project. Ms. Surman seconded. There was discussion on clay. The vote was a unanimous approval.

Mr. Campbell discussed the trail passport program. Kingston has taken our plans for that and is setting up one there and is all excited about it. Ours need repairs. KM: yes. WC: no funds for that now, but keep it in mind. Maybe we could do it this fall depending on money.

## iii. River Clean Up (Early to Mid-July)

Ms. Raub reported that last week at the River Committee meeting, Eric Hutchins from NOAA, mentioned public outreach program for dam removal draw downs. He suggested that there be a River clean up at draw down and he thought

ConCom should spearhead it. DPW did it last time with Fish and Game. People can keep what they find except any stolen cannon balls from Gilman Park. Suggested date is July 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Raub is willing to work with DPW on it, for getting word out and such. Probably be a Saturday. Mr. Campbell suggested that the Commission see where we are in June on the draw down date which will dictate the clean-up date. He said he would talk to DPW about it.

Ms. Raub then reported that Mr. Campbell and she went out the last Saturday of April and helped Bill Walsh bag up his seedlings for the kids in fifth grade at Lincoln St School and it was a great program.

She then discussed the Master Plan Steering Committee. There are 14 appointees. Doodle Cop was sent around for time and date to meet. When it does come up, I'm going to send the link out to what we are currently using for MP recommendations. Chap 7 is for Conservation and Chap 8 is for water resource management. Mr. Campbell said that an outside consultant to be hired and Ms. Raub agreed. A relevant visioning session from the Somersworth proceedings is online. They did a baseline document approach there. We will discuss it for possible use here. But she would like input from the members on it.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Minutes of 4/12: The Chair stated there are enough voting members present to approve minutes. There were no comments on the minutes of April 12, 2016, so Mr. Campbell moved approval as presented, Ms. Surman seconded and there was unanimous approval.

#### **5. Correspondence:**

There was none.

#### **6. Other Business:**

Chair: I was out at Raynes Barn property and there is another bridge where someone has been taking out boards by the stream. You cross by stepping across on rocks. Quite a bit of use of that trail. Bobolinks are there. He saw a Bald Eagle this morning. Don't know if others

want to revisit the idea of community garden plot there. Now would the time to use that site for that. Ms. Murphy discussed the status of that, about an interested party getting involved, perhaps on how to facilitate that by an interested party. Ms. Raub relayed that the lease says we could have up to an acre for a community garden if mutually approved by the Town and the user/farmer. Ms. Murphy said the approved location before was down by barn. Mr. Campbell added that he understands someone wants to partner with someone on putting in solar cells there. Don't know if room enough there. [There was discussion on this possible aspect] Mr. Campbell will get in touch with him. Not sure if both can co-exist there, not sure how much solar he is talking about. [Discussion on these aspects of area-a well for water, etc.] Ms. Murphy expressed her concern about being unsure how to move the lease forward-maybe need a work session to figure that all out. Mr. Campbell said they should look at old one and see if they want that same thing or changes. Ms. Raub said there might be time issues with 2016 plantings. There was lease discussion and the timeline issue. Since the BOS needs to sign lease, need a ConCom meeting first, to recommend signing to BOS. The lease is 15 pages long. Mr. Campbell asked that it be emailed to them. There was discussion on the process and terms of lease and on the farmer and use for this year.

Ms. Murphy expressed that she is nervous about restrictions and such but recognizes a growing discussion was happening. Hate to add additional meeting due to short timeline. It was concluded that Mr. Campbell will contact Tony about the idea and will email ConCom.

Reminder that all boards meeting will be on 6/15, sent notice of it with agenda. The members may and should attend, the more the better. No one is nominated or appointed to attend officially.

**7. Next Meeting:** Date is 6/14/16, the submission deadline is 5/27/16.

[There was discussion on limited edition prints of Raynes Barn by Mr. Koff's wife and he presented a print to Ms. Murphy. The board will ascertain if there is a way to use them within its goals.]



**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Raub and seconded by Mr. Campbell. The vote was unanimous. The session was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Pancoast, Recording Secretary