

TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 •FAX 772-4709 <u>www.exeternh.gov</u>

PUBLIC NOTICE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Exeter Conservation Commission will meet in the Nowak Room of the Town Office Building, Exeter on Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

- 1. Introduction of Members Present
- 2. Public Comment

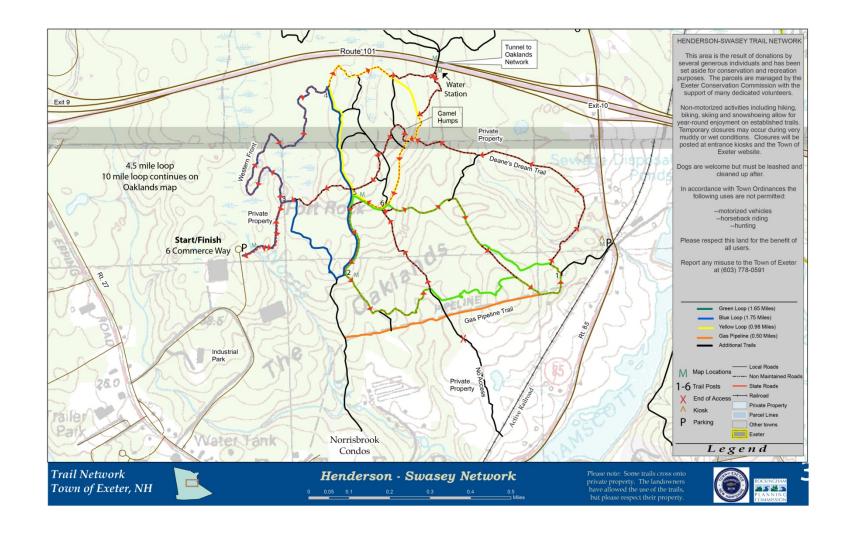
Action Items

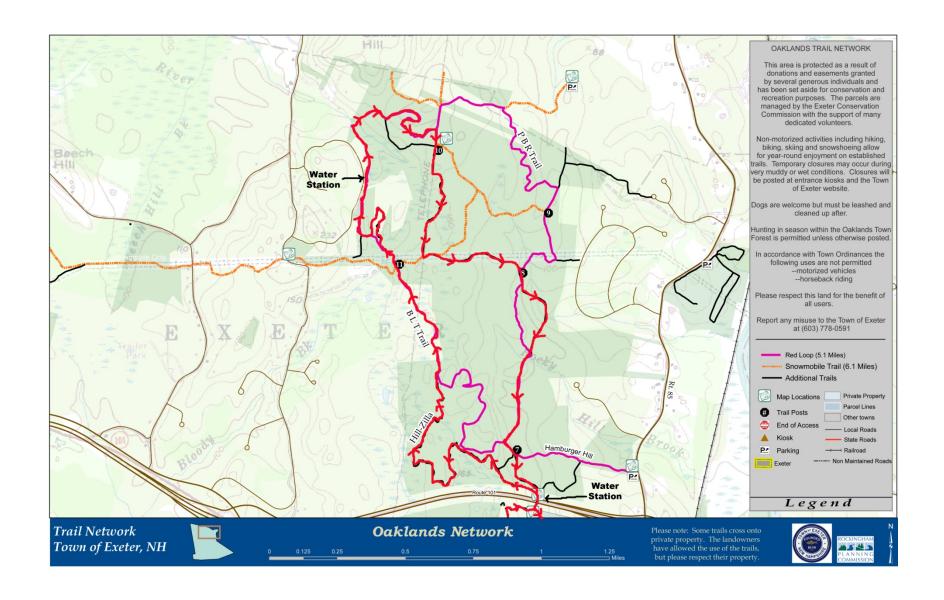
- 1. Event Request for a Trail Race within the Exeter Town Forests June 25th (*Sarah Sallade, Ri Fahnestock*)
- 2. Treasurers Report
- 3. Committee Reports
 - a. Property Management
 - i. Allen Street Property Inspection Follow-Up
 - b. Trails
 - c. Outreach
 - i. Neighborhood Rain Garden Event (May 21) and Install (June 9, 16th or 17th?)
 - ii. National Trails Day (June 4)
 - iii. River Clean Up (Early to Mid July)
- 4. Approval of Minutes: April 12th, 2016
- 5. Correspondence
- 6. Other Business
- 7. Next Meeting: Date (6/14/16), Submission Deadline (5/27/16)

Carlos Guindon, Chair

Exeter Conservation Commission

May 6th, 2016 Exeter Town Office, Exeter Public Library, and Town Departments.







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January 20, 2016



Exeter, New Hampshire 03833

Re: Allen Street Conservation Area Boundary Demarcation

Dear Allen Street Resident:

In early September 2015, representatives from the State Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and Town staff walked properties in Exeter that have received grant funding from the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. One of the properties visited was the Allen Street Conservation Area. As you are aware, the Allen Street Conservation Area was acquired with a vast amount of support from the residents, such as yourself, of Allen Street. In addition to personal time and financial contributions that made protection of this land possible, a grant from the LWCF was secured to assist with the purchase. Upon acceptance of the deed for the property, the Town committed to ensure that the property remains protected in perpetuity and to regularly inspect the property for compliance with the conservation deed. When walking the property with DRED representatives during the September inspection, concern was expressed over what was perceived as potential encroachments onto the conservation land and access right-of-ways. In order to determine if encroachments exist, it was decided the Conservation Commission needed to prioritize locating the property boundary.

As you may be aware, Pete Richardson, as representative of the Exeter Conservation Commission, spent a fair amount of time this fall searching for the surveyor markers to locate the property boundary. During these many visits some important points became clear. First there is a tremendous amount of care and respect of this conservation area. Many residents reported pleasing encounters with wildlife that would not have been possible without the presence of nearby natural habitat. Another important point discovered, was there is a fair amount of confusion over the location of the actual boundary where back yards end and the conservation land begins. In some cases, the boundary discs placed on the trees were thought to indicate the exact property boundary. In fact, these discs were meant to serve as an approximation of the boundary. The true boundary is only officially defined by surveyor-placed markers. Mr. Richardson was extremely successful in locating almost every surveyor-placed marker on the boundary between private land and the conservation area. To assist with their re-location, he placed wooden stakes next to these markers. Attached you will find a copy of the property plan indicating the pins that we were able to locate.

With the boundary more clearly defined, it is evident that there are several properties within the neighborhood that have introduced structures within the conservation property or within the three right-of-way areas that provide access to the property. As a result, the Exeter Conservation Commission

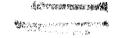
requests that if you have personal items outside of your property boundary, we would like them to be removed by May 2016.

Given the confusion over property markers and the few markers that remain unlocated, if you would like us to personally meet and discuss the boundary, we would be more than happy to help and will be available to do so when the snow recedes in late March 2016. If this is your desire, please contact me at (603) 773-6112 or kmurphy@exeternh.gov and I will arrange for either myself or a Commission member to walk this area with you.

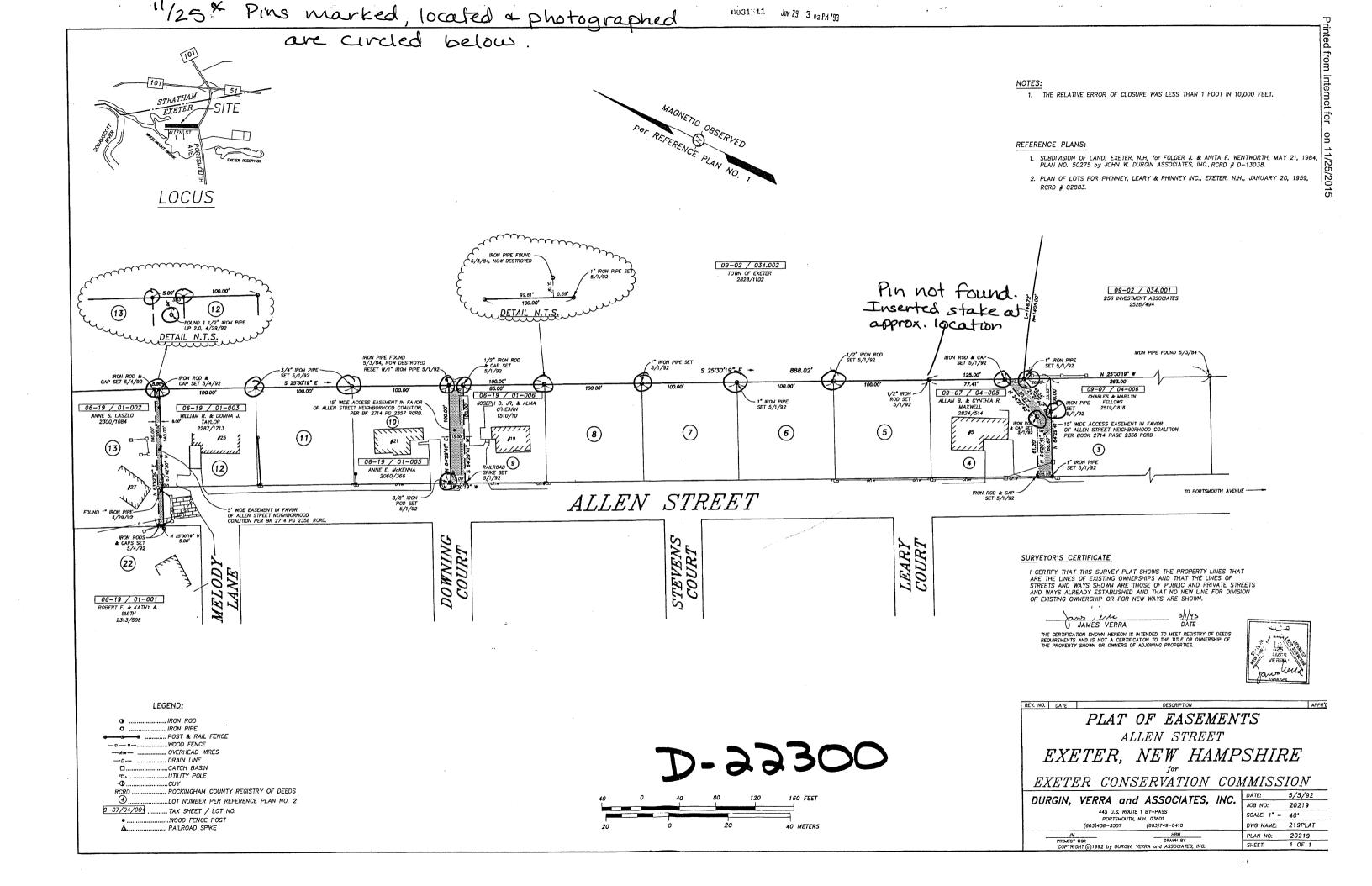
We would like to thank you for the many pleasant conversations and exciting recounts of the Allen Street grass roots effort to protect this area as well as the many stories of wildlife encounters. We look forward to a continued affable relationship.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kristen Murphy
On behalf of the Exeter Conservation Commission



Exeter Conservation Commission DRAFT MINUTES April 12, 2016

Call to Order

Jay Gregoire, 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: Bill Campbell, Andrew Koff, Jay Gregoire (Chair), Anne Surname, Alyson Eberhardt, Kristen Murphy

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

2. Public Comment: None

Mr. Gregoire requested a moment of silence for the passing of commission member Pete Richardson. Mr. Gregoire stated that he was an advocate for the commission and the commission was fortunate to have had him. There was discussion about designating a memorial for Pete such as naming Raynes Bridge or a conservation area after him.

Action Items

1. Membership Update and Officer Elections

Mr. Gregoire stated that Maggie Matick had resigned including his own resignation. He said that Ginny Raub and Carlos Guindon volunteered to act as voting members. Ms. Murphy explained that the commission should turn over 1/3 of its members after speaking with Sheri Riffle. Updated voting members include Carlos Guindon, Ginny Raub, Cynthia Field, Andrew Koff, Alyson Eberhardt, and Bill Campbell plus a Board of Selectmen representative. Ms. Eberhardt noted that there should be a process for training new board members as recommended at the All Boards Meeting. Carlos Guindon not present at the meeting offered to be chair as along as someone filled in when he was out of the country. Mr. Campbell offered to be vice chair to run meetings as needed. Ms. Raub was also not present did not wish to renew her position as treasurer. Mr. Koff volunteered to be treasurer. Ms. Raub would resume the role as clerk.

2. Treasurers Report: None

3. Budget Planning and Expenditure Requests

Ms. Murphy stated that the forester needed to be paid before revenues from logging were collected so the funds came out of the town budget. There will also be additional expense for invasive species removal.

Ms. Murphy requested the expenditure request for \$235.00 for the spring tree program put on by Peter Waltz for 5th graders. The expense pays for the trees, and packaging. Ms. Eberhardt asked if there were options for kids without yards. It was also suggested that the Commission promotes itself on the trees brought home. Ms. Murphy said she will reach out to Pete Waltz to discuss advertising. Tree packing will take place around April 30. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Surname volunteered to help.

Mr. Campbell motioned to approve the expenditure of \$235.00 for the spring tree program, second by Mr. Gregoire. **VOTE:** Unanimous

Ms. Eberhardt motioned to approve the expenditure of \$17.91 from the Conservation Land Administration budget category to reimburse purchases used in locating conservation property boundaries, second by Mr. Campbell. **VOTE**: Unanimous

Ms. Murphy explained that the dues for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission increased from \$572 to \$629. Ms. Eberhardt asked what the benefits were. Ms. Murphy said that the organization provides legislative support to the commissions, they lobby for the Conservation Commissions, hold an annual meeting and provide educational programs for members.

Ms. Eberhardt motioned to approve the expenditure of 629 from the dues category for NHACC annual dues, second by Mr. Gregoire. **VOTE:** Unanimous

4. Master Plan Update Representative Selection

Ms. Raub who was not present had expressed interest in the position.

5. Proposed Legislative Amendment for RSA 36-A

Ms. Murphy reported that the proposed had been removed.

6. Committee Reports

a. Property Management

Mr. Campbell spoke about the Allen Street property. Letters were sent to property

owners that abutted the property and who may have encroached the easement. They were asked to remove anything that may be encroaching the easement.

b. Trails

Ms. Murphy said that the logging trails were in rough shape. There should be an open forum about logging. Ms. Murphy suggested not starting mitigation efforts until the logging work is done.

Ms. Eberhardt suggested a site walk of the trails, she noted it was hard to navigate without prior knowledge of the trail system. Ms. Eberhardt suggested a planning session with defined objectives.

c. Outreach

May 4th is the Healthy Lawns Clean Water Forum from 6-9pm. May 14 is the Swasey Parkway Soil Testing demonstration with UNH Cooperative Extension.

Ms. Murphy also noted the SOAK NH model rain garden initiative on West Side Drive. Rain barrels are also on sale on the town website.

7. Approval of Minutes: March 1, 2016

The minutes were tabled due to not enough voting members in attendance.

8. Correspondence

Ms. Murphy noted a request to sponsor envirothon participants. It was suggested not to donate this year as the budget is tight.

Ms. Eberhardt noted the Conservation Commission round table meetings she attends along with other Commission members around the seacoast. They share needs and useful information. They meet once a month a Monday at 8:30 am. Ms. Eberhardt said she would share location details. Ms. Eberhardt also noted the amount of incomplete applications the commission sees and there needs to be a better communication with the Planning Board.

9. Next Meeting: May 10, 2015

Mr. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Surname. VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm

Respectfully Submitted

Sarah McGraw