Exeter Conservation Commission Trails Committee Meeting Summary 3/22/17

Chair Jay Gregoire called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices. Conservation Commission members in attendance included Bill Campbell, Chair, Andrew Koff, and David O'Hearn. List of attendees is attached.

Jay Gregoire provided an overview of the meeting agenda and introduced Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner for the Town. Kristen explained which parcels were under the jurisdiction of the Town of Exeter and which were privately owned, especially surrounding the Henderson Swasey Town Forest. She described use of Exeter's MapOnline which is accessible from the Town website as a good online resource for more details. She then presented an overview of the Henderson Swasey Town Forest boundary, and a history of trails in the Henderson Swasey Town forest as surveyed in 1989 for the timber management plan and again in 2005 for the Master Plan. She walked through the 2009 Trail Management Plan development and the designation of an approved trail network. She followed with trail data from the 2016 survey. This survey showed a significant number of new trails on both private and Conservation Commission managed land. Kristen and Jay walked through the trail approval process. They led the committee in a discussion of the safety, natural resource, and trail maintenance challenges that the installation of unpermitted trails creates. Jay inquired from the group what users felt the benefits of the new trail segments were and what their suggested next step would be.

Attendees pointed out that those involved with rogue trails were likely not in attendance. Matt Caron suggested using Strava HeatMap as a way to see which trails are getting the heaviest use by user group. It was discussed how the biking community prefers a very narrow (single track) trail that may double back adjacent to itself while hikers tend to prefer a slightly wider trail where two people can walk side by side that is designed as a destination oriented trail. Concern was expressed over losing the trails listed as unauthorized to development and to look to design similar style trails on conservation land. Trail committee members suggested before the Commission considers permitting new trails, we should all focus our resources on improving the condition of existing trails. Concern was expressed about trails with exposed roots, bridge deterioration, poor blazing, etc. The group agreed and felt if they could have a list of Commission-approved projects to implement, it would make it easier for volunteers to fit in trail care when free time presents itself. It was decided Bob Kelly would be a point of contact for suggested improvements and he would present them to the Commission for pre-approval. Opportunities such as the Comcast Cares, interns and volunteers could assist with implementation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Exeter Trails Committee Meeting

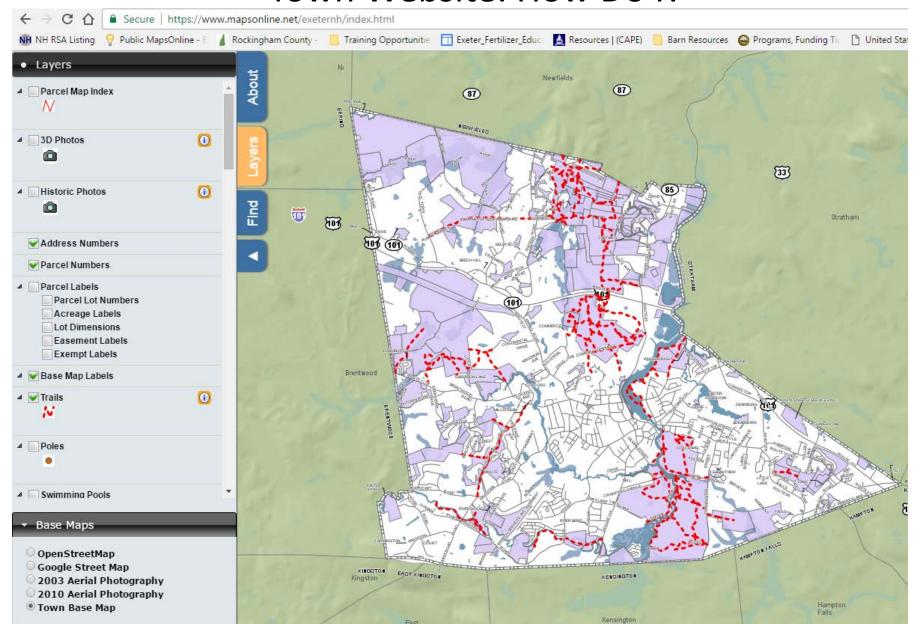
The Exeter Trails Committee, a subcommittee to the Conservation Commission will meet in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town offices 10 Front Street, Exeter on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

Agenda

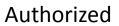
- 1. Trail Management
 - a. Trail History
 - b. New Trail Approval Process
 - c. Unauthorized Trails
- 2. 2017 Trail Maintenance Needs
 - a. Trail Blazing
 - b. Infrastructure Repair
 - c. Sign Needs
- 3. Maintenance Opportunities
 - a. April 26th PEA Climate Action Day
 - b. Part Time Summer Interns

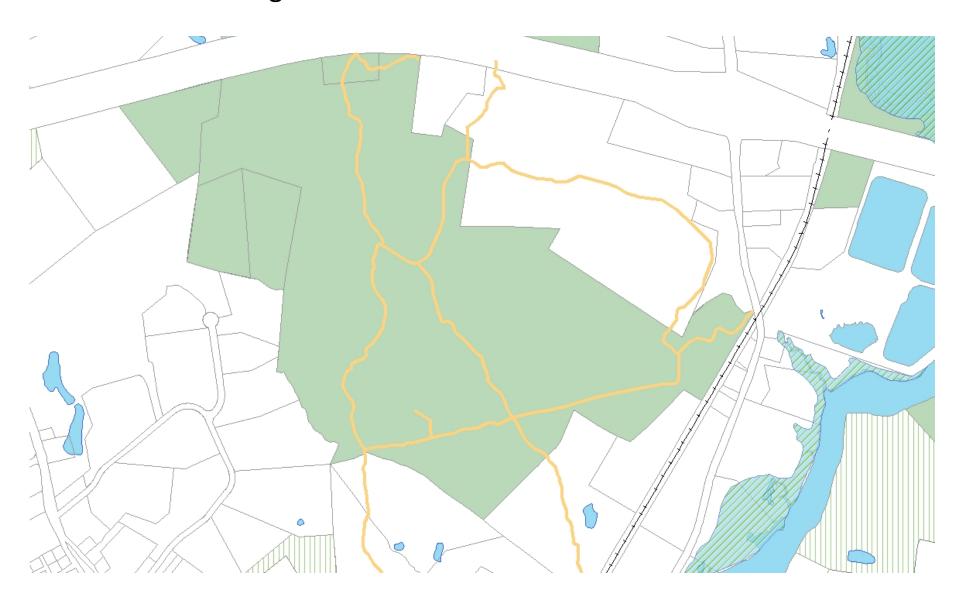
Jay Gregoire, Chair Exeter Trail Committee February 27th, 2017 Exeter Town Office, Exeter Public Library, and Town Departments.

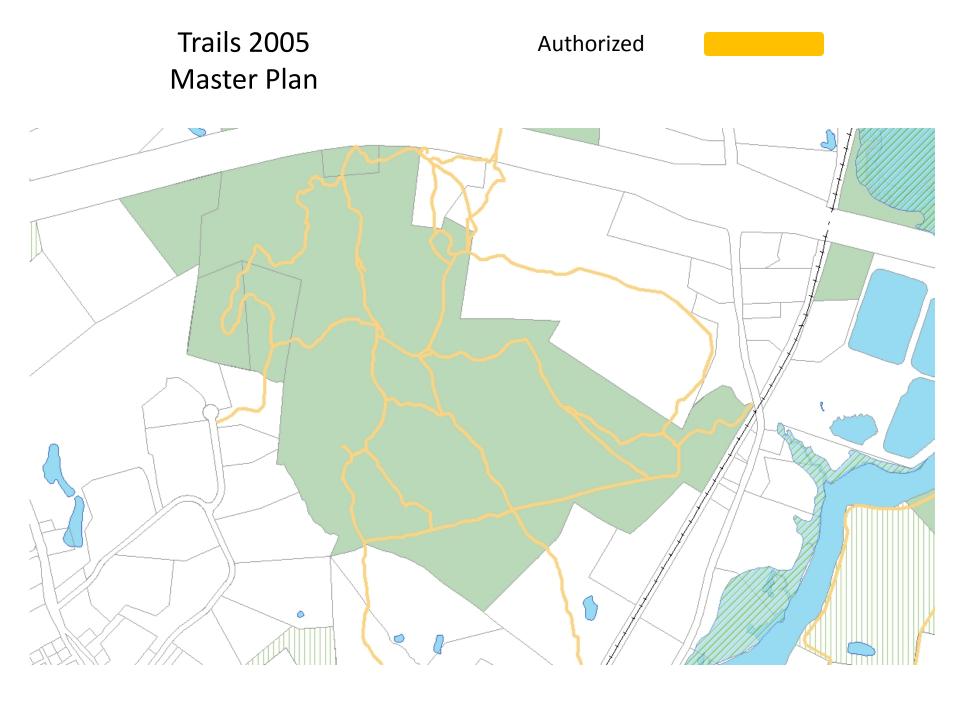
Exeter MapsOnline Town Website: How Do I?



Trails 1989 H-S Forest Management Plan

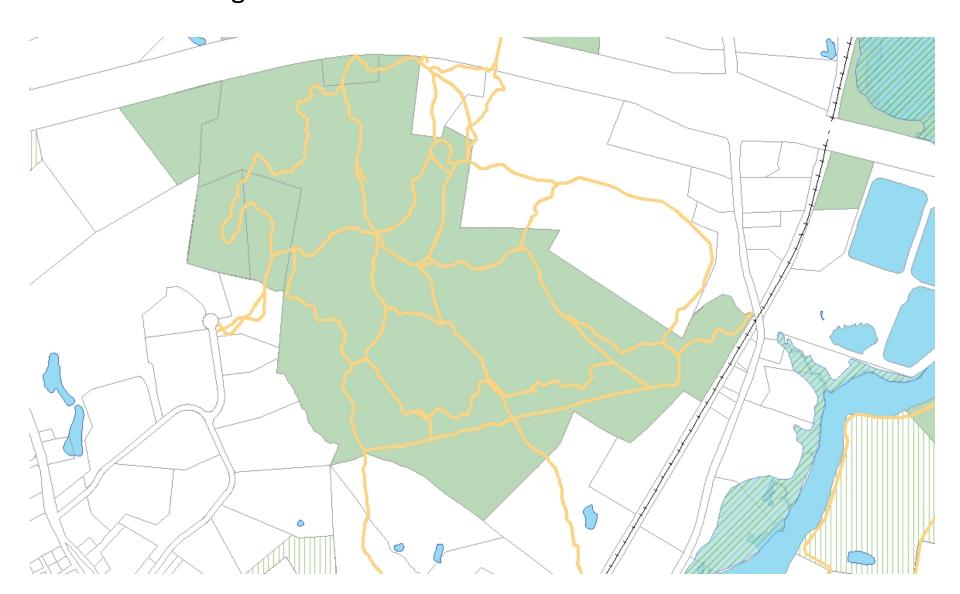






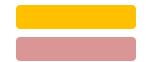
Trails 2009 Trail Management Plan

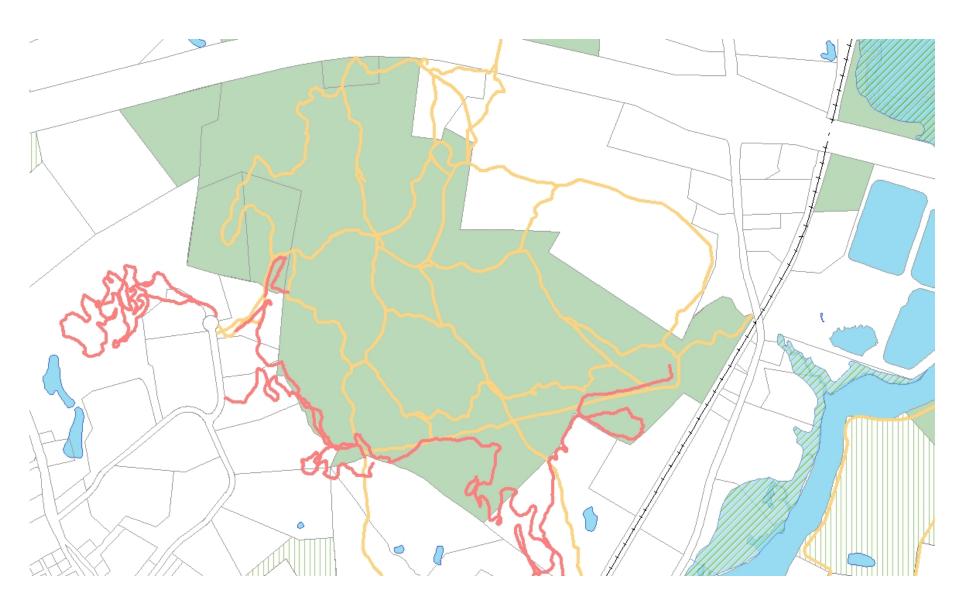




Trails 2016 Inventory

Authorized Unauthorized





10/22/17 Sign In Trail Committee Email if Not on Trail Com TOBY FERNYN Randy Caldwell Jeff Couture Kyla Walch Mike Deary Rob Kelly Beach Wave Short BILL Theroux Matt Caron Andrew Koff Jim Clark -