

Exeter Conservation Commission  
October 9th, 2018  
Draft Minutes

**Call Meeting To Order**

1. Members Present: Present at tonight's meeting were Bill Campbell, Dave Short, Carlos Guindon, Todd Piskovitz, Andrew Koff, Alyson Eberhardt, Ginny Raub, Don Clement, and Kristen Murphy.

Bill Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

2. Public Comment

Deb Humiston discussed her concern about dogs not under their owner's control in the town forest. She wants to see the rules about dogs posted publicly. Recently she was mapping for her orienteering event and there was a pit bull that took off into the woods; when she confronted the dog owner, he said that there is no leash law. Mr. Campbell said the Commission will be addressing the issue of dogs in the town forest later in the meeting. He would like to post some suggested rules of courtesy and educate the public. He mentioned that the leaving of dog waste on the trails also an issue.

**Action Items**

1. Family Orienteering Event, November 4th, 2018 (Deborah Humiston, UpNorth Orienteering)

Deborah Humiston stated that she has received permission from C3I to start the orienteering event in their parking lot, and the insurance is now in place for the event. She updated the map but has not yet added the trails and forested area; she may move the points if they turn out to not be appropriate on inspection. Mr. Campbell asked if participants will be using the tunnel; Ms. Humiston said yes, the trails will force them to go through the tunnel. She asked for permission to have the event even if it's raining, and would like one person from the commission to give the go-ahead on the day. Mr. Guindon said he had served in that role before, but he felt that this event would be minimally impactful. Mr. Short asked how many people were expected; Ms. Humiston responded about 20. Mr. Koff and Ms. Eberhardt approved of a rain-or-shine event. Mr. Campbell designated Mr. Guindon to be Ms. Humiston's contact.

**MOTION:** Mr. Koff moved to approve the application for the orienteering event in the town forest. Ms. Eberhardt seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Humiston asked whether the Conservation Commission could promote the event, and Ms. Murphy said they could post it on Facebook or the Exeter Civic app. Ms. Humiston said that participants don't need to register in advance; the start and finish time for registration on the day will be 10 - 12 or 10 - 1, it's \$5 to participate, and you don't need to bring anything.

2. Recommendation to Select Board on consideration of perpetual parking easement at 173 Water Street (Tax Map 64/Lot 50) in accordance with town policy (Mike Todd, Excel Construction Mgmt.)

Michael Todd of Excel Construction Management stated that they had approached the Selectmen regarding this parking easement request on September 10th, but the Select Board needs to hear a recommendation from both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission. This project has the recommendation of the Planning Board.

Mr. Todd read the Parking Easement Narrative. Two planned parking spaces encroach slightly into Town of Exeter property; one encroaches by 103.48 square feet and the other 39.94 square feet. The easement will allow two tenant vehicles to park on-site instead of parking on public property. They are planning to have two spaces for each tenant, but most of the parking spaces are underneath.

Ms. Eberhardt asked if the Planning Board had talked to them about pervious pavement and stormwater treatment. Mr. Todd replied that they are increasing pervious pavement slightly and are planning to collect stormwater in catch basins. Mr. Piskovitz asked if the project would be coming back to the Commission for a permit, and Ms. Murphy said no, the project doesn't require a shoreland or wetlands permit because it's redevelopment.

Ms. Eberhardt asked if they have a landscaping plan. Mr. Todd said it's not complete but will go before the Planning Board for approval at the end of the month. Mr. Campbell recommended that they not use invasive plants. Mr. Todd replied that they don't have much landscaping area.

Mr. Campbell stated that the edge of the property is the old edge of the river, and the rest is fill. Bert Freedman, the owner of the property, informed them that the fill was done in 1989, when the land was given as an easement to the town and they filled it in for a road. Mr. Todd introduced the rooftop pictures in the packet, which show the area impacted by the two easements. Mr. Koff asked if cars would park adjacent to the building. Mr. Todd said yes, the cars now parking informally along the curblin would be displaced. Ms. Raub asked if the green space would go away, and Mr. Todd said yes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Piskovitz moved to send a memo to the Select Board saying they have reviewed the proposal and have no objection to the lease of this portion of the town's land for the purposes indicated. Ms. Raub seconded. All were in favor.

### 3. By-Laws Update

Mr. Campbell presented a few proposed changes to the Conservation Commission by-laws. The first change in Article 3, #9, where it says "To advise the Planning Board on Conditional Use Permits," he suggested adding "and Wetland Waivers". Mr. Koff asked if it were a waiver or an application. Mr. Piskovitz said "a wetland waiver request." Ms. Murphy recommended something more general, such as "general resource matters". Mr. Piskovitz suggested leaving the two specific points and adding "and all other resource matters." Mr. Clement asked what Wetland Waivers the Conservation Commission issued, since that is a State matter. Ms. Murphy said they issue Wetland Buffer Waivers, so the word "buffer" is missing. The final version was "to advise the planning board on Conditional Use Permits, Wetland Buffer Waivers, and other natural resource matters."

In #12, Mr. Campbell suggested changes to the phrase "...to implement the actions dealing with conservation issues." Ms. Eberhardt asked if they could consider replacing the word "issues." She suggested "natural resource conservation," but then said that conservation is too restrictive, since they may also work on enhancement. Mr. Short suggested "and related matters." Mr. Clement said that "issues" had the connotation that they only step in when there's a problem. Mr. Campbell said that the Master Plan uses the phrase "action issues." Ms. Eberhardt suggested "to implement the actions dealing with natural resources." Mr. Campbell said that they do whatever the Select Board asks them to do, but Ms. Raub pointed out they could also work on other things.

In Article 6, #1A3, Mr. Campbell inserted a word so that it reads "suggestions or changes *that are agreed upon by the committee,*" and struck "and" from the sentence.

Regarding Article B and Article G, Ms. Murphy said Article B is redundant. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Piskovitz thought Article G should be a separate item so that it stands out. Mr. Clement said the Planning Board has language that no *new* business should be conducted after 10 o'clock, and he wondered whether they stopped at 10 o'clock. Mr. Piskovitz said for Rose Farm meeting the Planning Board stopped at 10 o'clock. Ms. Murphy said the challenge with that is that the Commission meets only once a month. Mr. Campbell said that at 10 o'clock he would have them make a motion to continue or stop. If they needed 10 more minutes, he'd like that flexibility.

Ms. Eberhardt pointed out that in Article 3 #6, it says "To keep the public informed as to actions taken and lands available for public use through maps, signs, charts, plans, and pamphlets." She asked if they want this to reflect current times, such as adding "websites" and "social media." Mr. Clement suggested they take out the word "and" and add "websites". Mr. Piskovitz suggested "town website and social media." Ms. Murphy suggested they stop at "public use" and not itemize the methods. Mr. Piskovitz agreed, saying any methods they listed would likely be outdated in 10 years.

**MOTION:** Ms. Eberhardt moved that they approve the bylaws as amended. Mr. Guindon seconded. All were in favor.

#### 4. Budget Transfer Request for Education and Training (NHACC Annual Meeting attendance)

Ms. Murphy said that to craft the motion they needed to know who is interested in attending the Saturday November 3rd NHACC at Pembroke Academy. Mr. Piskovitz observed that this is also the new day of the Disc Golf event. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Guindon indicated they will be going, so \$120 will be required.

**MOTION:** Mr. Piskovitz moved that they transfer \$120 from the training and wages temporary sub-account to the education and training. Mr. Guindon seconded. All were in favor.

#### 5. Committee Reports

##### a. Property Management

##### i. Update on Henderson Swasey Invasive Work Day

Mr. Guindon said it was a successful first invasive work morning. The tool lending option Nature Groupie provided most of the tools, including pullers, picks, and clippers. Three of the participants had gone to the academy on invasive species at UNH; he showed a poster of invasive species from the academy, and mentioned Mark

Damsell's idea to put it up in the Town Offices. Mr. Clement said he would try to get approval to hang it there. Mr. Guindon continued that he had narrowed the project to a section of town forest which had been recently managed, and focused on Bittersweet, Buckthorn, and Burning Bush/Euonymus. The project left way more than they pulled, but made a small dent in the area most heavily infested. Mr. Campbell pointed out that the academy said don't try and get rid of the huge Euonymus, but to focus on where they're just coming up. He also said that if anyone would like to go out there, there are still a lot of marked invasives. Mr. Guindon said there may not be another opportunity for an organized event this year. Ms. Raub thanked Mr. Guindon for marking the invasive plants, and said the group wouldn't have been half as successful without the marking. She suggested that in the future, they have a separate team marking them. Mr. Guindon said they left most of the removed plants on site with the roots out, and a few that had seed were put in bags and left on site. Mr. Clement thanked Mr. Guindon for setting up the event.

ii. Update On Field Mowing and Consideration of Modifying Mowing Regime At Whites Meadow For Habitat Creation

Mr. Campbell said Dave Ahern mowed the meadow but left a patch of Aspen as a good habitat for woodcock. Ms. Murphy said the deed said the town should mow to keep the area as a wet meadow. Mr. Campbell asked if they are doing enough if they leave this patch. Mr. Guindon said he had looked at the patch and feels that currently too much is left. There's enough wetland edge and forest edge around it for a woodcock habitat. He's in favor of mowing it all or leaving a smaller part. Mr. Clement said the intent of the deed is to keep it as a meadow; if the Aspen grows and spreads, they will lose the meadow. Mr. Short said it would make it easier for future boards if they declare now it's entirely a meadow, not just patches. Mr. Piskovitz said the contract is a little vague, but Mr. Clement's insight into intent holds more weight. Mr. Campbell asked if the Commission agreed that the whole meadow be mowed now. The Commission agreed by consensus. Mr. Koff asked if they could still mow saplings of that size, and Mr. Guindon said yes, but it will not be mowable by next year.

iii. Inquiry for Morrisette Work Day

Mr. Campbell said that a resident is concerned about dumping on the Morrisette property and would be willing to help clear it up if they had a work day. She is concerned about the trail from skateboard park to the meadow, but Mr. Campbell said that that area is pretty clean; Ms. Murphy said that David Ahern spent time cleaning it when he mowed. Mr. Campbell said if you go south from the field away from the river towards Gary Lane, there's a place where trash accumulates. He and some others brought it out thinking they could get a truck from Public Works to pick it up, but they haven't. Coming from over the bridge from the SST parking lot toward Linden Street, there's a trail on the left to a spot where the interns cleaned last year, but trash keeps accumulating there. He asked if anyone on the commission would organize a work day. Ms. Raub said it's not that they're not interested but the time of the year is an issue, a lot coming up. Mr. Guindon suggested an event in the spring. Mr. Campbell said if they cart trash out to the

SST lot, the DPW will come pick it up. Ms. Eberhardt suggested that they see if any teachers from SST would help organize an event. Mr. Koff suggested the Y, but Ms. Raub didn't think they'd be interested. Mr. Campbell said that the Y may want to use the property. Mr. Clement agreed with Ms. Eberhardt that it would be a good project for SST students, and they should find out who's the director there. Ms. Murphy said she had a student work with her, which was set up by instructor at SST, so she can reach back out to them. Mr. Campbell said he's hesitant to tell SST to clean it up. Ms. Murphy said the Commission and SST annually cleaned up the parking lot together in the past and suggested an Earth Day event. Mr. Guindon and Ms. Eberhardt thought that was a great idea. Mr. Koff raised the concept of "plogging," a Scandinavian idea of picking up trash as you jog, which is environmentally friendly and a good workout.

#### iv. Community Garden Update

Ms. Murphy said that she, Ms. Raub, and Greg Bisson have been talking with SELT about a potential community garden site at Gilman Park. There are significant restrictions on the conservation easement, but there is an ability to approve activities the easement is silent on. They've crossed some significant hurdles and the site has potential. The challenge has always been finding the right property. Previously, they had considered Raynes Farm, but it's out of the way, whereas this site is walkable to downtown. Mr. Campbell said there's water out there, which they didn't have at Raynes. Ms. Murphy said the site is a grassy area with an old ballpark, it will contain 20 20ft x 4 ft raised beds. They have a meeting on Thursday to talk about logistics and funding. Regarding funding, the Liberty Utilities lease agreement on the former Moreau Nursery site is a possibility. She should have a more realistic proposal at the next meeting.

#### b. Trails

##### i. Signs

Mr. Short said that the previous Thursday he, Mr. Campbell, and Jim Clark mounted the signs that Mr. Campbell's friend, Jon Thunberg, had made. Both he and Mr. Campbell heard good feedback on the signs. Mr. Campbell requested that if commission members see other places where a sign would be helpful, let him know; Jon Thunberg is busy but in the winter he'll be glad to make more. Mr. Campbell doesn't want to overpopulate the area with signs, but to find the junctions where the trail meanders and visitors can get turned around.

#### c. Outreach

##### i. Disc Golf Event Volunteer Sign Up 10/12-14

Ms. Murphy said that the Raynes Farm disc golf fundraiser was scheduled for this Friday through Sunday, but they haven't had enough sunny weather to hay the field. She spoke with Darren Davis, the farmer, and Josh Cilley of Fly By Disc Golf, and the only other opportunity is the first weekend in November, when the haying should be finished. They are using social media to let people know about the delay. This creates a problem with coverage - she had planned to cover Friday and Saturday morning, but she has to go to the NHACC. Ms. Murphy can cover Friday and Sunday, but needs support

for other days and times. Ms. Raub asked what the volunteers do; Ms. Murphy said there's a table in the barn with T-shirts and information, it's purely PR for the commission. Also, at each hole, they're planning to put out an interpretive sign about the history of the property. Mr. Campbell offered to help on Friday and help close on Sunday, but he and Mr. Guindon are also going to the NHACC meeting on Saturday. Ms. Raub, Ms. Eberhardt and Mr. Koff said they could possibly help. Further discussion will take place by email.

ii. Story Walk 10/27 ages 4-7

Ms. Raub said that storybook for the event is the Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything. She decided to have two readings, at 3 PM and 3:30. They'll start from the barn and work towards the cemetery. She's planning to send out an email looking for props, since it's an interactive story walk, and she needs big boots and other items. Mr. Koff said he would help stake, and Ms. Raub said that she'd premarked the spaces. Mr. Campbell asked if Raynes Farm will be mowed by then; Ms. Murphy said Darren Davis will do it next week.

d. CC Representatives Report on Other Committees

i. Discussion of String Bridge Pocket Park

Ms. Raub said that when Bob Glowacky of Exeter TV was filming the alewives' return, he found a grassy spot by the String Bridge that was an optimal viewing area for the fish. His idea was to create a pocket park with an interpretive sign about the types of fish and their activity. This proposal came to River Committee, but they have no funds. Paul Vlasich said the area is owned by the town The Conservation Commission could help with the interpretive sign, and Public Works could help with the clearing of the overgrown grassy area. Mr. Clement said that he had visited the site, but it's a small area with no sidewalk and would not be a safe viewing area without a fence. Ms. Raub said there would have to be some engineering. Mr. Clement said calling it a "pocket park" is a stretch. Mr. Guindon suggested "viewing area." Ms. Raub said it's in the early stages, and was unsure where it should go next. Mr. Guindon asked that she keep them posted.

6. Approval of Minutes: September 4th Meeting

**MOTION:** Mr. Piskovitz moved to approve the minutes without corrections. Mr. Guindon seconded. All were in favor.

7. Correspondence

Ms. Murphy said there was no correspondence.

8. Other Business

Mr. Campbell discussed his proposal for a laminated sign regarding dogs in the town forest. He wanted to create an encouraging sign, and not say "you must." He'd had feedback from Ann Surman of the Select Board; she thinks not all dogs are a problem, but she would like to encourage good citizenship. Mr. Campbell asked if dogs should be leashed, and Ms. Murphy

said yes, it's a state law, but she didn't know the exact wording. Mr. Short said he'd like to see what the New England Mountain Bike Association has done in the past. He felt that dogs are an issue but biking etiquette and interaction with hikers is a bigger issue. He can bring that info into the next meeting. Mr. Campbell said they should ask bikers to let people know they're coming and not scare them. Mr. Short said hikers should have the right of way, bikers should defer to them. Ms. Eberhardt suggested that they ask other people who manage trails, and asked if there were opportunities at NHACC for a round table or informal discussion on the issue. Mr. Campbell suggested it include picking up after the dogs too. There will be further discussion by email.

9. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (11/13/18), Submission Deadline (11/2/18)

Non-Public Session:

**MOTION:** Ms. Eberhardt moved to enter into a non-public session, pursuant to RSA 91A:3, II(d) for the consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property. Ms. Raub seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by roll call vote at 8:35 pm.

Committee returned from non-public session at 8:45

Mr. Koff moved to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session; seconded by Mr. Piskovitz. Roll call vote to seal the minutes passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary