

Exeter Conservation Commission  
February 11, 2020  
Town Offices Nowak Room  
Draft Minutes

**Call to Order**

1. Introduction of Members Present

Present at tonight's meeting were Chair Todd Piskovitz, Vice-Chair Andrew Koff, Dave Short, Kristen Murphy, Alyson Eberhardt, Ginny Raub, Alternate, and Donald Clement, Alternate

Sally Ward, Clerk, Bill Campbell, Carlos Guindon, Lindsey White, Alternate, Trevor Mattera, Alternate and Julie Gilman, Select Board Liaison were not present.

Mr. Piskovitz called the meeting to order at 7 PM and indicated Alternates Ginny Raub and Donald Clement were both active.

2. Public Comment

Town Planner Dave Sharples indicated that in 2017 the Town applied for the Transportation Alternative Program Grant to connect three sidewalks and make one continual sidewalk with 80% from federal funding. The Town approved this in 2017. There are disconnects along Winter Street, Brentwood Road and no sidewalk by FairPoint. Surveying has to be done and a series of easements obtained which were signed by the landowners. Per RSA 41-14-a if the Selectmen acquire or sell land, they must bring to Conservation Commission first. While Mr. Sharples was not sure if that applied in this situation, Town Counsel recommended going through the process. Need review from Conservation and Planning Board before Select Board.

Mr. Sharples identified the easements and acquisitions. One was a 14' easement acquisition, a permanent of 60' needed to reset curb, a temporary slope easement to grade out driveway, another permanent easement, all three owners onboard. A handicapped tip down, permanent easement; put retaining wall in. The final is to put tip down in and maintain.

Mr. Clement noted the Town was fortunate to have had Mr. Sharples push this through. It will benefit the intersection on Brentwood and Epping and Columbus which have very narrow strips.

Mr. Koff asked about the crosswalk on Epping from Winter Street to the park and Mr. Sharples noted some neighbors did not want it there and the Town worked with the owners to move 75' from intersection so it was still close enough for people to use.

**MOTION:** Mr. Clement motioned upon review of the easement plan regarding additional sidewalks, Conservation has no objection. Mr. Short seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

## **Action Items**

### 1. Annual Work Plan Priorities

Chair Piscovitz provided a schedule of activities, management and trails and urged the Commission to choose which events and trail work the Commission wanted to do in 2020. The items could be addressed seasonally or quarterly looking at what is ahead in the coming months.

#### April/May Activities:

- The Vernal pool Program @ Forest Ridge with ERLAC & Forest Ridge HOA is in late April
- The Earth Day Photo Contest is on April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Spring Tree Program in April
- Easter Event
- Geology Walk t/b/d
- The woodcock Walk at Raynes Farm will be in early May
- Climate Outreach Board Workshop in May
- Rain barrel Sale in May

#### Amendments:

Ms. Raub was unable to do the Geology walk. Mr. Koff will take that on. Mr. Clement noted the Town Forest may be a good place for that.

Easter event – Ms. Murphy talked about doing a story event and possibly an egg hunt at Raynes Farm. Mr. Clement noted Swasey was a better location for that.

Ms. Murphy noted the Tree Committee will participate with the Spring Tree Program.

DES does a photo contest for Earth Day.

Ms. Murphy would like to do the vernal pool program with Forest Ridge HOA.

#### June Activities:

- Bobolink Bird Watch at Raynes in June

#### September Activities:

- Kayak Tour in September

#### October Activities:

- Story Walk

Ms. Raub indicated she can do that. It was originally scheduled for 10/26 but conflicts with parade.

#### Unscheduled Activities:

- Barn Talk
- Movies at Raynes Farm with Parks & Recreation
- School Groups at Raynes
- Milkweed at Morrissette w/SST
- Film Exeter Open Spaces
- Sustainability/Conservation Fair
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Project

Ms. Murphy met with Tom Brightman of NH Fish & Game and Tracy Degan of RCCD about the Morrissette property in late December wanting to collaborate on a pollinator planting study with Exeter and the SST students growing milkweed and planting them at Morrissette and tracking progress rates. Mr. Brightman shared some suggestions on mowing practices such as delineating sections, dividing into three.

#### Property Management:

##### Cheney

Ms. Murphy indicated there is a rustic tree structure there. Mr. Clement noted its been there a long time but don't know its purpose. Mr. Clement recommended sending someone in to photograph it in the spring.

##### Morrissette

##### Invasive Removal

Ms. Murphy indicated the SCA Invasive Removal would be set up early, have SCA volunteers, deadline in **June**.

##### VRAP Volunteer Recruit

Ms. Murphy posted on Facebook and the website. Five new people are helping. VRAP supposed to be volunteer run. Ms. Murphy will advertise it. Ms. Eberhardt indicated it didn't necessarily have to be only people from Exeter.

Trails:

Oaklands

Mr. Clement indicated there was a quarry there many years ago. Is in the Henderson Swasey area. Mr. Short added there is one between Norris Brook trail and the industrial park that has beautiful cut granite. Mr. Clement noted one on the South side of 102 as well.

Mr. Koff did not feel Oaklands bridge was safe or necessary. Mr. Short indicated both bridges are needed. Part of the crooked bridge is underwater and now frozen. Chair Piscovitz asked if it could be altered without triggering a permit. Ms. Murphy noted a trail maintenance notification could be sent. There used to be a pipe to regulation water elevation. Mr. Short would prefer to wait and see if it is feasible. A lot of feedback was received that it is cool and iconic.

Vandalism of sign at Trussle Lot

Mr. Short noted someone could do printing on Tyvek and recreate the map and paint the reverse side so it looks good.

H-5 Kiosk

Quarterly Trail Meetings

Ms. Murphy indicated interest in the Trail Committee Meeting.

Irvine Sign

Chair Piscovitz may have a friend who can replace it. Ms. Murphy noted Bill got an estimate for \$475 for a sign.

Skate Park Morrissette Sign

McDonnell Trail Court St. Entrance

Smith Page

Sign for Pete's Path

Sign at Raynes to direct to trail

## 2. NHDES Wetland Rule Amendment

Ms. Murphy provided a handout from the NH Association of Conservation Commission with links relative to the December, 2019 updates.

## 3. Committee Reports:

### a. Property Management

#### i. Conservation Planning

Ms. Murphy indicated this started as wetland mitigation. Did ARM grant fund ranking, narrowed list and presented. Reached out to landowners to alert of the ARM grant opportunity. Trying to narrow down landowners who are willing and designate the top five properties. Chair Piscovitz recommended figuring out what can be reasonably obtained. Mr. Clement added weigh the criteria. Ms. Murphy noted if partially in the NRI area look to protect at priority.

#### ii. Morrissette Property Management

### b. Trails

#### i. Henderson Swasey Kiosk Vandalism

### c. Outreach Events

#### i. Report on Full Moon Snowshoe

Mr. Koff reported the snowshoe event advertised on Facebook was successful with about 20 people, mostly adults. The hike went out to the Irvine property where Ms. Eberthardt gave a talk which was well received.

#### ii. Upcoming:

##### 1. April 23 Sky Watch Event at Raynes (cloud date 4/27)

Ms. Raub noted the NH Astrological Society presentation will be in the barn at 7:30. Telescopes are provided.

Ms. Murphy will put together a flyer.

### d. Tree City Subcommittee

Ms. Murphy indicated the Committee is meeting at 8:30 PM on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Three Liberty Elms have been donated. Tree stewards will be established for long-term care of the plantings. Reviewing

tree ordinances and looking to update those.

Mr. Short met with the Flockharts. The donation is a multi-year deal. Discussed tree maintenance and areas that need trees such as Town right of ways on several roads.

5. Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2020

**MOTION:** Mr. Clement motioned to accept the January 14, 2020 minutes as amended. Mr. Koff seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Ms. Raub and Ms. Eberhardt abstained. Approved 5-0-2.

6. Correspondence

Ms. Murphy spoke with Matt Berube about the path to clear the sewer line which needs widening. The sewerage line goes through a prime wetland and may require a wetland application or permit by notification. Willing to talk about areas we want protected.

7. Other Business

8. Next Meeting

a. Date Scheduled: March 17, 2020 at 7 PM, Submission Deadline: February 28, 2020

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Ms. Eberhardt moved to adjourn. Mr. Short seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer  
Recording Secretary