

Exeter Conservation Commission
December 14, 2021
Nowack Room
10 Front Street
Draft Minutes

Call to Order

1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)

Present at tonight's meeting were by roll call, Chair Andrew Koff, Vice-Chair Trevor Mattera, David Short, : Alyson Eberhardt (remotely), Donald Clement, Alternate, Bill Campbell, Alternate, Thomas Patterson, Alternate, Kyle Welch, Alternate, and Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner.

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and activated Alternates Don Clement, Bill Campbell, Thomas Patterson and Kyle Welch.

2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)

Mr. Koff asked if there were any members of the public who wanted to speak to an item not on the agenda and being none closed public comment.

Action Items

1. Request for exploratory test well drilling on the Morrisette Conservation Parcel in Exeter as part of our continuing groundwater exploration program for the Town (Agent: Daniel Tinkham)

Daniel Tinkham, Senior Consultant/Hydrogeologist with Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations, a division of GZA, presented the request of the DPW to access the Morrisette property to bring in drilling equipment to conduct sampling as a preliminary exploration.

Mr. Tinkham noted the location would be between Linden and Court Streets with access to come off Linden Street using a track drilling rig and small water buggy. A 4" steel casing would be driven down. If favorable a 3" diameter PVC pipe would be lowered and a preventive sand pipe with cap which could be painted to be more visible. A sample would be collected and if not favorable they would backfill and move in. There are a couple of 2-4" diameter trees in the 250' path and they would stay away from the existing trail network. The work would be a two-day process, eight hours per day. The drill rig is available next week and it is unlikely there will be snow cover.

Mr. Campbell asked about the red/maroon line on the plan showing entry. Mr. Tinkham noted the intent was to go along the edge side of the field until the wetland scientist took a look but moved to avoid wetland soils.

Mr. Campbell advised the Commission had just planted wildflowers in the field and would like to avoid them being dug up.

Mr. Campbell asked what kind of gadget would go in if water were found and favorable. Mr. Tinkham noted a long term production well would be put in with a bigger machine, 12-18" in diameter with a large support truck and the 12" well would be built inside.

Mr. Campbell asked if there would be a structure on top and Mr. Tinkham noted there would be a fenced cement pad. The pump station can be off side or by Linden Street.

Mr. Clement noted Whites Meadow was not very favorable, three borings were done. Mr. Tinkham noted Smith Paige had three deep borings and there was a lot of clay and the aquifer was never intercepted. They would like to see a 300-500 gal. minimum. Any less would not be worth it. The test wells are 40-60' or a little more.

MOTION: Mr. Short motioned that the Commission has reviewed the proposal and feel the activity is in compliance with the terms of the deed as proposed. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Mr. Koff abstained. By Roll Call: Mr. Short voted aye, Mr. Campbell voted aye, Mr. Mattera voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye and Mr. Patterson voted aye. The motion passed 6-0-1.

2. Committee Reports

a. Property Management

i. Beaver Deceiver installation update

Mr. Short reported the beaver deceiver is working. The water level is down.

Mr. Short recommend trying it at the Industrial Park. Ms. Murphy noted it is a lower elevation. Mr. Clement recommended touching base with Jay Perkins at DPW. Mr. Short noted he mentioned it.

ii. Raynes – Phase Ib Results

Ms. Murphy reported the Phase Ib archeologist did sampling and detailed test pits and found a low incidence of artifacts and were satisfied so there is no mitigation required. The report has not been received yet but should be available for the January meeting. The grant announcement was for today but she has not seen the state wide announcement yet.

iii. Update on Little River Emerald Ash Borer research

Ms. Murphy reported she heard from the UNH researcher Todd Johnson who is doing the Ash Borer research out at the Little River Conservation Area. They sampled 35 of

the 50 approved trees and would like to extend the approval to next year to do the sampling of the remaining trees.

b. Trails

Mr. Koff asked about lumber and Mr. Short noted there was some by Oaklands. There are some 6'x6's and some planking down the hill leftover from the other bridges that were built. Mr. Campbell asked if there were any funds left in the budget to purchase lumber and Ms. Murphy noted the budget is expended and there is no surplus. Mr. Short noted the idea has been put out there to move it but the bypass has never been a really good trail so an abandoned trail with low areas could be re-established using the remaining wood.

Mr. Short and Mr. Welch identified some trail areas in disrepair. South of Route 101. Along 85. People try to fill the low area in and makes it more of a mess. Another place is along the gas line, muddy and people try to cobble together a bridge and go around it. From the Accelerator to the Green Trail. A 20' bridge. Mr. Short will visit with the private property owner to get permission. Ms. Murphy will bring back the trail maintenance activity list to the next meeting. The trestle lot bridge is wobbly. Mr. Koff noted they should plan to have a Trail Committee Meeting. Ms. Murphy noted PEA will have a student project planned for next year.

c. Outreach Events

Ms. Murphy reported there were no registrations for the November 20th wreath workshop event. Timing was bad as there were two other workshops that weekend. She proposed having open barn days with hot cocoa while visitors are sledding on a Saturday afternoon or weekend.

Mr. Koff recommended snowshoeing in February. The full moon is on the 16th and school vacation is at the end of February.

3. Approval of Minutes: November 9, 2021 Meeting

Ms. Murphy recommended edits.

MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned to approve the November 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes as edited. Mr. Koff seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Short voted aye, Mr. Campbell voted aye, Mr. Mattera voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye and Mr. Patterson voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.

4. Correspondence

a. 41-a Mill Road housing development email

Ms. Murphy reported an email was received from residents of Brentwood concerning development on Mill Road which is in conceptual discussion with the Planning Board. Regional Impact notification will be triggered. Mr. Clement recommended waiting to discuss the concerns once the plan was more developed.

b. Summer Exeter Trail Race inquiry

Ms. Murphy reported an inquiry from Sarah who runs the Exeter Trail Race and is interested in holding the event this year. She asked if the Commission had any concerns and will approach the Commission closer to the project start date.

5. Other Business

Ms. Murphy reported the Tree Ordinance was adopted by the Select Board. A scavenger hunt is planned to report large trees. An invite was sent to local schools with a flyer and a QR code. There is an online submission form. Trees would be remeasured every five years to track the size change over time.

Mr. Short noted he knew of one and will contact the owner. Species can be looked up on the UNH site.

Mr. Murphy noted it was Town Report season again and she will circulate a draft of the Commission's submission.

Ms. Murphy provided a flyer from the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup advertising a Zoom seminar on January 20th from 9-10:30 AM entitled On the Path to Resilience: Preparing for a Changing Climate. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link <https://tinyurl.com/P2Rzoom>

Mr. Koff noted part of the Town budget proposal is to combine Ms. Murphy's title to be Conservation & Sustainability Coordinator and if approved in March start full-time right after. Mr. Koff noted he is supportive of the full-time position. Mr. Short offered to provide a support letter if needed. Mr. Clement noted it would be part of the public hearing before going to Deliberative Session.

Ms. Murphy noted if the L-Chip grant is awarded for Raynes Farm it would be helpful to have an informational packet concerning the matching funds at Deliberative Session.

6. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (1/11/21), Submission Deadline (12/30/21)

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM seconded by Mr. Clement. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary
Via Exeter TV

This meeting was also broadcast on Zoom 845 0461 7074