

Exeter Conservation Commission
April 12, 2022
Nowack Room
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, Select Board representative Nancy Belanger and Alyson Eberhardt (remotely).

Staff Present:

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)

Mr. Koff noted there were no members of the public present.

Action Items

1. Expenditure Request – NH Association of Conservation Commission Dues

Mr. Koff motioned to approve the expenditure of \$900 for the NH Association of Conservation Commission dues to come from the Conservation Commission budget. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Ms. Eberhardt voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Mattera voted aye and Mr. Short voted aye. The motion passed 4-0-0.

2. Committee Reports

a. Property Management

i. McDonnell Gate Now Operational with Volunteer Support

Mr. Koff thanked the volunteers who assist with opening and closing the McDonnell Gate every day.

ii. Gateway – Deed Update

Mr. Koff noted that he has just signed the deed for this property which is 43.6 acres. Next the deed will go to DES and the Select Board for their signatures. Ms. Belanger indicated that the matter went before the Select Board last night and was approved. Ms. Murphy attended to show support.

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iii. Riverwoods Forest Stewardship Plan Presentation

Mr. Koff noted that the Riverwoods Forest Land Stewardship Committee meets on Thursday at 7:30 PM. There will be a forester. Ms. Murphy and Mr. Mattera will attend.

iv. Cooperative Middle School Water Quality Project

Mr. Koff reported that Ms. Murphy will be presenting at the Cooperative Middle School along with Eric Turner from ERSALAC.

b. Trails

i. Jolly Rand Trail Maintenance

Mr. Short noted that if it looks doable, he will go by and then talk to Jay next week or so.

ii. Morrisette Property

Mr. Short noted this area is not well drained and there are parking problems. If the terrain is upgraded patrons may be encouraged to use parking available parking at the industrial park in Exeter and alleviate congestion in the parking lots on Watson and Route 85. Mr. Short posted on the biking webpage and the response was huge. Several thousand dollars worth of used decking were pledged by a contractor who was renovating a number of decks in Kingston. Reusing the product will also keep it out of the landfill and keep the donor from having to pay to dispose of it.

Mr. Short noted that a lot of the work will be getting the material in to the site and he will set a trail day with 15-20 volunteers in May.

Mr. Koff stated that he will organize a Trail Committee meeting soon.

c. Outreach Events

i. Geocaching Event (Kyle)

Mr. Koff reported that Kyle will be planning a Geocaching event.

ii. Alewife Festival

Mr. Koff announced that Parks & Recreation are hosting a chance to win a Kayak for selecting the date of the Alewife Run the day before getting to Pickpocket Dam when they will come through downtown. If more than one correct date is predicted the names would be pooled into a raffle. The cost is \$10.

89 Mr. Koff reported that there will be a Mascot Costume Contest with judging to take place the
90 day of the festival. Ms. Eberhardt noted the date of the costume flyer needs correcting. The
91 Alewife Festival is on the 14th the rain date is the 21st. T-shirts will be available, and Mrs. Koff
92 did a great job on the logo.

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94 Mr. Koff noted that NH Fish & Game will be at the festival. The Sustainability Committee will
95 have an electric vehicle display. The Tree Committee is having its scavenger hunt contest.
96 Pollinator Pathways will have a booth and Philips Exeter Academy will have a booth showing
97 residents how to reduce their junk mail (a link is available to that presentation). There will be a
98 film festival and a kayak tour beginning at the Town boat launch. Sawbellies will be offering free
99 beer to purchasers of their pint glass. There will be no beer at the festival they would bring their
100 glass to Sawbellies after to redeem their free beer.

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102 Mr. Koff reported that he and Mr. Mattera will be overseeing the Enviroscape landscape
103 simulation model which simulates how rainfall can carry pollutants and move them through the
104 watershed and the model of the cross section of groundwater which shows how sand and silt
105 have water drain off media and how groundwater and surface water contamination flows into
106 wells. Mr. Koff added that they could use more help that day as there will also be trail maps and
107 Sea Level Rise presentation at Swasey Parkway to show how local areas are impacted.

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109 5. Approval of Minutes: March 8, 2022 Meeting - Tabled

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111 **Mr. Short motioned to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting. Mr. Koff seconded the**
112 **motion. A roll call vote was taken, Ms. Eberhardt abstained. Motion failed.**

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114 6. Correspondence

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116 Mr. Koff reported two letters of support are going out from the Commission. The first is for the DPW
117 project on Drinkwater Road for a grant with DES Coastal Program to enlarge the failing culvert and the
118 second is for DPW with the same grant program for a culvert replacement under the Watershed
119 Assistance section for Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure. Ms. Eberhardt added that as a private citizen
120 she has voiced encouragement for PEA to consider the two perched culverts downstream especially
121 with the Alewife migration expanding after removal of the dam. She noted that the Alewife lack the
122 ability jump up and the culvert is just beneath a trail and a good opportunity. Mr. Koff added that Pete
123 Steckler from the Nature Conservancy may be interested in this. The second project will be drainage
124 study at Tan Lane to address significant issues in the stormwater collection system improving water
125 quality and reducing nitrogen loading flowing into the Squamscott River.

126
127 Mr. Koff concluded that the projects will support improved crossing, water quality and habitat.

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129 7. Other Business

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131 Mr. Koff noted Town-wide clean-up day started yesterday. Residents can go to the DPW and get free
132 bags to pick up trash along the roadsides and drop them back for free disposal at the DPW. The

133 compost site took in 16,500 tons of food waste which were diverted from the landfill and there is a
134 clothing textile bin to donate unwanted clothing that isn't suitable for second hand donation. They took
135 in 1000 pounds in February alone.

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137 Mr. Koff reported that Ms. Murphy will be working with Dover where she lives on a Climate Change
138 program modeled after one that was done here in Exeter.

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140 Mr. Koff announced the rain barrels will be for sale.

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142 Mr. Koff reported the RFP for Raynes Farm has gone out and is due on May 2nd. The \$150,000 from the
143 Town was approved by the voters. There will be a site visit on Friday April 15th at 10 AM. Mr. Koff, Ms.
144 Murphy and previous Commission member Sally Ward who is on the Raynes Farm Stewardship
145 Committee will attend. Mr. Short noted he would be interested in being involved in review of the
146 construction details of the RFP. DPW will be involved and a former Commission member. Mr. Short
147 provided the name of a contractor who specializes and did some work on Newfields Road. The owners
148 of the barn were very pleased with the results.

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150 8. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (5/10/22), Submission Deadline (4/29/22)

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152 Adjournment

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154 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM seconded by Mr. Mattera. A vote was
155 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

156
157 Respectfully submitted,

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159 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary
160 Via Exeter TV

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162 This meeting was also presented virtually Zoom ID 897 5937 7042