

Exeter Conservation Commission  
August 9, 2022  
Nowak Room  
Exeter Town Offices  
10 Front Street  
Approved Minutes

**Call to Order**

1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)

Present at tonight's meeting were by roll call, Vice-Chair Trevor Mattera, Nick Campion, Conor Madison, Kyle Welch, Alternate, Alyson Eberhardt (remotely) and Nancy Belanger, Select Board representative.

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner

Mr. Mattera called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and indicated Alternate Kyle Welch would be active.

2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)

Mr. Mattera asked if there were any questions or comments from the public related to non-agenda matters and there were none.

**Action Items**

1. Review of Draft Warranty Deed – 6.31 Acres from Exeter Rose Farm LLC

Ms. Eberhardt recused herself as Attorney Baum is her husband.

Attorney Kevin Baum submitted the warranty deed for the 6.31 acres of Exeter Rose Farms, LLC.

Attorney Baum noted the deed was consistent with terms of Henderson Swasey. He asked the Commission if a baseline would be required considering the size of the parcel and the lengthy review which are recorded in the Town's records.

Ms. Murphy noted the importance of baselines to establish existing conditions and that it was a criteria of acceptance by the Commission but not brought forward by the Planning Board. The Town will own the property in fee simple.

Mr. Mattera agreed due to the size of the parcel and Mr. Campion also agreed the deed looked solid.

***Mr. Campion motioned after reviewing the warranty deed, that subject to legal counsel review, to recommend acceptance to the Select Board, as presented. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 4-0-0.***

44 Ms. Murphy noted the deed would be sent to legal and if they approved it then to the Select Board to  
45 vote to accept and record. She noted one of the conditions of approval would be that prior to the  
46 issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for any lot the boundary would be walked with the applicant to  
47 confirm the boundary markers are in place.

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## 49 2. Committee Reports

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### 51 a. Property Management

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#### 53 Raynes Farm

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55 Ms. Murphy discussed the slow rate of growth of the grass at Raynes Farm and whether  
56 there would be enough growth for a second cut this year. She commented that grass would  
57 need to be 12-15" for Bobolink nesting and she has not seen any activity. She  
58 recommended putting it on the agenda for the next meeting so that the farmer can be  
59 involved in discussions.

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61 Mr. Madison asked when the grass was last hayed and Ms. Murphy indicated she could get  
62 data for the formal discussion. Mr. Campion asked if there was a second cut last year and  
63 Ms. Murphy confirmed there was always a second cut since 2008 but one as late as October.

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65 Mr. Campion noted a lot of Monarch Butterflies on the back field. Ms. Murphy added that  
66 she has found a couple of stands of Milkweed.

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### 68 b. Trails

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#### 70 a. Donations

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72 Ms. Murphy reported two donations were received, one from the Exeter Trail Race in the  
73 amount of \$268 which was a portion of their profits and \$50 from the Word Barn as a  
74 portion of their profits from the Raptors of NH presentation.

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76 Mr. Welch reported a new bridge with pressure treated wood was put in on the Trestle lot.

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78 Ms. Murphy noted Exeter Lumber had donated lumber and Bob Glowacky was going to do a  
79 feature on it next week.

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81 The Commission extended its thanks to the donors and volunteers.

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### 83 c. Outreach Events

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#### 85 a. Geocaching

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87 Mr. Welch reported the Geocaching event went well. Some attendees had never been to  
88 that part before and the kids enjoyed climbing Fort Rock. There were three geocaches and  
89 many were excited to go out again and try it on their own.

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91 b. Raynes – “Raptors of New England” sponsored with the Word Barn

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93 Mr. Mattera indicated he attended the Raptors event put on by the Word Barn it went very  
94 well.

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96 3. Approval of Minutes

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98 a. June 14, 2022

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100 Ms. Murphy recommended edits after speaking with Mr. Campbell.

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102 **Mr. Mattera motioned to approve the June 14, 2022 minutes as amended. Mr. Campion**  
103 **seconded the motion. Ms. Eberhardt abstained. The motion passed 4-0-0.**

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105 b. July 12, 2022

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107 **Mr. Campion motioned to approve the July 12, 2022 minutes. Mr. Mattera seconded the**  
108 **motion. Ms. Eberhardt abstained. The motion passed 4-0-0.**

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110 4. Correspondence

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112 a. NHDES – Rocky Hill Brook culvert

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114 Ms. Murphy provided correspondence from NHDES concerning the Rocky Hill Brook culvert for  
115 informational purposes. Ms. Murphy spoke with Mr. Campbell who recommended thinking  
116 about having a mitigation list to promote different scales of mitigation for priority impacts. Ms.  
117 Eberhardt noted last time there was a subcommittee formed and she would be happy to serve  
118 on that. Mr. Mattera noted he would serve on the subcommittee also.

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120 b. House Bill 1661

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122 Ms. Murphy reported that changes to HB 1661 will impact how the Planning Board drafts their  
123 decisions with Findings of Fact so the Commission will need to carefully craft their findings when  
124 they prepare their motions to the Planning Board. The criteria may need to be more formalized.

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126 5. Other Business

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a. FY 2022-FY 2023 Budgets

Ms. Murphy indicated with the donations received that there were some funds not expended in the FY 2022 budget and asked if there were any ideas to spend the remaining money, such as putting a new roof on the kiosk. Ms. Eberhardt recommended spending money on trail signs and blazing, connectivity, Smith Page, and perhaps paying someone to draft a plan.

Ms. Murphy indicated that the Town Planner Dave Sharples has contracted with RPC to work on the Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan. Smith Page has a lot of pushback from Drinkwater residents due to parking and use of some of those trails.

Ms. Murphy reported the draft budget submissions are due at the end of this month but other expenses could be addressed when they go before the Budget Recommendations Committee. Ms. Belanger noted the full-day for the budget is scheduled on October 21<sup>st</sup> and the Select Board will meet with ten department heads.

Ms. Belanger asked Ms. Murphy if she had an ongoing to-do list and Ms. Murphy indicated she did and trails often receive support from the bike group but other projects could use skilled construction and supervision.

Ms. Belanger asked Ms. Murphy if the Commission had considered a community day such as Parks & Recreation put on each year and Ms. Murphy indicated they usually get help from Timberland, Comcast and the Academy students.

Ms. Belanger asked if maps could be updated and Ms. Murphy noted most of the handouts are correct but some trails are not included on apps. Some kiosk maps have trails that are not captured. Ms. Eberhardt noted they had discussed emergency management and Ms. Murphy noted she worked with Jason Fritz as some new trails had not made it onto the maps. The maps were updated and printed for the Fire Department. There may be some trails that should or should not be located. Some more rooted trails could be rested.

Ms. Murphy reviewed the upcoming budget schedule with the Budget Recommendations Committee and that with donations unpredictable it makes budgeting difficult. Ms. Belanger agreed that if the funds for this year are not spend down then the Board would likely cut their budget for next year.

b. Rain barrels – DPW Program

Ms. Eberhardt encourage listeners to visit the DPW website where there was information on free rain barrels in exchange for grocery donations to Vincent de Paul who has a wish list posted online. She reported success with use of the rain barrels to water her garden during the water restrictions from the drought this year.

170 6. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (9 13 22), Submission Deadline (9 2 22)

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172 Mr. Mattera noted concerns with attendance for the next meeting as September 13<sup>th</sup> is the Primary.

173 Ms. Belanger noted she could not attend.

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175 7. Adjournment

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177 MOTION: Mr. Champion moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM seconded by Mr. Madison. A vote  
178 was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

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180 Respectfully submitted,

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182 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

183 Via Exeter TV

184

185 This meeting was also offered via Zoom 886 8896 9737