

Exeter Conservation Commission
November 8, 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, Chair Andrew Koff, Nick Campion, Don Clement, Alternate, and Kyle Welch, Alternate

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and indicated Alternates Don Clement and Kyle Welch would be active.

2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)

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

Action Items

1. Draft Floodplain Development Ordinance Amendment

Ms. Murphy reported the amendment to the Floodplain Ordinance has been drafted to elevate the base flood to 2' (currently it is at 1'). She worked with RPC to establish an advisory area to recommend owners follow the SLR maps extending beyond the FEMA maps. This is for a small area of Water Street and on Portsmouth Ave where the water treatment plant is. There would be no change to flood insurance. It would formalize the process of what applicants provide including certifications. She met with the Master Plan Oversight Committee. The amendment would go to Town Meeting after public hearings with the Planning Board.

Ms. Murphy posted the map showing the area in pink, which is required, and the portion shown in blue where new construction or substantial improvements would trigger recommendations to follow the same procedure as if in the flood plain, to be 2' above base flood elevation.

Mr. Clement asked why not require this in this area and Mr. Koff noted fiscal impacts would likely cause it to be shot down. Mr. Welch noted, as being devil's advocate, that it would put a lot of faith in the SLR models for 2050 and 2100 which show 4" SLR with storm surge in 2100. Ms. Murphy noted it promotes

44 education and public outreach and communication. The levels could be higher than modeled if there is
45 not a change in fossil fuel reduction. She noted these models don't reflect inland rise modeled by the
46 Cape study.

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48 2. Committee Reports

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50 a. Property Management

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52 i. Seasonal Closure of McDonnell Conservation Area Gate Effective: 10/28

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54 Ms. Murphy reported the gate is closed for the season and while this would leave
55 parking for only one or two cars, people can still walk out there. She thanked,
56 Diane, Bruce, Charlene and the McSweenies for their help with closing the gate each
57 day. Having the gate closed will cut down on calls to Police during the winter
58 months.

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60 ii. Conservation Land Mowing & Recommendations for Next Year

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62 Ms. Murphy discussed mowing with David O'Hearn. Morrisette had been divided
63 into three areas to be mown every other year. It would be three years before the
64 first area would be mown again. He recommended that since the woody growth is
65 increasing to mow the full field in 2023 and then divide into half every other year.
66 There is a lot of multiflora rose and autumn olive which are invasive species. She
67 noted she has seen a lot more diversity with annuals. She reported he brush
68 hogged the Stone property by Powder Mill Road and it looks good. He
69 recommended two cut next year in June and August. The first cut will trigger
70 resprouting.

71

72 Mr. Clement indicated he would like to see an opportunity for agricultural use or
73 community gardens there. The soil was fertile there. Ms. Murphy noted the south
74 side at Raynes can be used for community gardens.

75

76 Mr. Koff noted there is no water or electricity, but a tank could be placed. There are
77 no deed restrictions for agriculture on the parcel. Ms. Murphy noted there is a gas
78 line to consider close to the access way.

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80 Mr. Koff indicated the Commission would figure out how to come up with the
81 additional \$2,000 to fund additional mowing.

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83 iii. Raynes Farm Project

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85 Ms. Murphy noted the Commission received an L-Chip Grant for \$100,000 matched by
86 residents with another \$100,000 and \$50,000 from the Commission for the repairs at
87 Raynes Barn. She put out two RFPs and has not received any qualified response. She

88 reached out to the company, Bedard Preservation, who did the identification and cost of
89 repairs, and they are willing to complete the project now that they have time in their
90 schedule. However costs have now increased by \$50,000 due to inflation and what they
91 have would only purchase clapboards and paint two sides. They would focus on the
92 south and east sides which are the worst. She submitted a Scope of Work Amendment
93 to L-Chip and would contract with Bedard before the end of December.

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95 Ms. Murphy researched grants and found one with T-Mobile that is \$50,000 and closes
96 at the end of December. The grant is for improving community facilities and promoting
97 public spaces. She would hear by January or February. She is getting letters of support
98 from the Historical Society, the Merrills (former farmer), the Word Barn, Facilities
99 Advisory Committee is presenting at the end of the week and with the Select Board. If
100 successful she would go back to L-Chip and amend the contract with Bedard. The
101 contingency plan is the Moose Plate but that would delay until 2024. She thanked Don
102 and Sally for providing feedback and edits on the application.

103 104 iv. Griset-Mendez Property Update

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106 Ms. Murphy reported she received no update from the State on the wetland issue
107 raised. She shared the photos and information and asked if a permit were issued. The
108 no-hunting signage has been installed. She ordered custom signs.

109 110 v. Amundsen Easement Grantor Request

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112 Ms. Murphy noted a property owner came in and wants to cut back two and a half acres
113 off Garrison Lane, but the plan doesn't line up with the aerial, so the proposal is unclear
114 to her at this point. There is a large easement with exclusion area.

115 116 b. Trails

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118 Mr. Koff reported there was a Trails Committee meeting last week. Mr. Welch attended and
119 Mr. Short phoned in. Toby from Fort Rock Riders was there. They discussed closures of side
120 trails. Toby has signs that say closed for revegetation. Someone took down some of the
121 Conservation signs. Mr. Welch brought maps called heat maps that track use by bike or
122 pedestrian on trail apps. He showed locations where bikes might like what he called spaghetti
123 trails whereas pedestrians don't want to see the same sights. A lot are on private property and
124 the community will be sad if those go away.

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126 Mr. Koff indicated the need for better signage and possibly QR codes to assist those getting lost.
127 The Commission could reach out to the Fire Department to see if they have records of where
128 people are having difficulty most often. Blazing could be closer together and signs could
129 indicate the direction to parking lots.

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131 Ms. Murphy will bring the budget to the next meeting.

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c. Outreach Events

i. 9/25 Kayak Program Report

Mr. Welch and Mr. Madison attended the Kayak program. About eight people joined them. The cost is \$25 and includes kayak, paddle and lifejacket. Parks & Recreation may be interested in sponsoring more events.

ii. 10/21 SkyWatch Report

Mr. Koff attended the SkyWatch event and noted there were about 28 people in attendance. He thanked the NH Astronomical Society for giving the presentation in the barn and setting up their telescopes for viewers. He hoped this would be a regular event and happen in warmer months also.

Ms. Murphy noted it was difficult with lighting to get people from the barn back to the parking area where the telescopes were set up. She encouraged attendees to bring their red flashlights and noted lanterns could be placed.

d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy, CPAC, Tree)

Ms. Murphy noted Mr. Mattera attended the River Study Committee meeting on October 20th. Paul Vlasich, the Town Engineer, presented the updates on Pick Pocket Dam and syphon updates.

Ms. Murphy noted the Sustainability Committee is presenting to the Select Board on the 14th concerning single use plastics.

Ms. Murphy noted the Energy Committee and Community Power created a timeline as to what can be implemented. Sustainability and Energy talked about getting together to collaborate and share resources and outreach on ordinances. Sustainability meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month and Energy meets on the 2nd Wednesday during the day.

Ms. Murphy reported the Tree Committee hosted their tree program and added labels to some trees at Swasey.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. September 13, 2022 Meeting

Mr. Koff motioned to approve the September 13, 2022 minutes. Mr. Madison seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

176 4. Correspondence

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178 Ms. Murphy reported she received a notification from Brendan Quigley concerning the Glerups
179 projects with minor requests from NH DES to communicate with the abutter and correspondence
180 from Fish & Game asking for notices of protected species and that the Functions and Values report
181 address vernal pools.

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183 5. Other Business

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185 Ms. Murphy noted the Carlisle project is going to the Planning Board on Thursday. The Gateway
186 project got additional state funding.

187
188 Ms. Murphy reported the NHACC Conference was held. She and Mr. Madison attended. He went to
189 climate adaption workshops, and they discussed SLR and precipitation. Ms. Murphy attended
190 Conservation Fund Best Practices and was surprised to learn what happens when the budget isn't
191 approved, and it goes to default and can be re-arranged by the Select Board. She noted she was
192 disappointed Dover cancelled their presentation on TDR (Transfer of Development Rights). They
193 have a robust Conservation fund as a result and she would like to learn more.

194
195 Ms. Murphy attended a seminar at Plymouth Community College which partnered with the
196 Conservation Commission and High School to conduct their natural resources inventory. She noted
197 high schools get free access to ESRV. They focused on wildlife and trails and the effect of trails on
198 wildlife.

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200 7. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (12/13/22), Submission Deadline (12/2/22)

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202 8. Adjournment

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204 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM seconded by Mr. Madison. A vote was
205 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

206
207 Respectfully submitted,

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209 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary
210 Via Exeter TV