

Exeter Conservation Commission
April 11, 2023
Exeter Town Offices
10 Front Street
7:00 PM
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, Vice-Chair Trevor Mattera, Nick Champion, Conor Madison, Kyle Welch, Nancy Belanger, Select Board Representative and Alternate Don Clement

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and activated Alternate Don Clement.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Koff asked if there was any public comment and there was none.

Action Items

1. Henderson Swasey/Oaklands Orienteering Event Application – June 4, 2023 (Deb Humiston)

Deb Humiston presented the application to hold an orienteering event at Henderson Swasey/Oaklands on June 4, 2023 which would be held rain or shine by the non-profit she has been a member of for 30 years. The orienteering event is a sport/game/learning opportunity in which participants learn to use a map of the area. Flags are placed at marked locations and a finger stick indicates where attendees have been. The event starts between 10 AM and Noon and attendees are informed they must be out by 3 PM and all dogs must be on a leash.

Mr. Koff requested a copy of the map being used. Ms. Humiston indicated she would like the event to be put on the Town's calendar. She will send a flyer to Ms. Murphy.

MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned that the Commission reviewed the application and approves the use. Mr. Clement seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

42 2. Pollinator Pathways Stepping Stone Seed Kit Grant Opportunity & *DRAWING DATE*

43

44 Ms. Murphy explained the Seed Kit Grant Opportunity with Pollinator Pathways. There would be five
45 packets which the Commission can distribute or possibly reserve one and distribute the other four which
46 could be done by raffle at the Commission's next meeting. There would be restocking of the seed library
47 at the library. Seeds can be requested at the check-out area.

48

49 Ms. Murphy noted that Pollinator Pathways requests that seeds must be planted on your own land and
50 a photo be taken before and after seeding and after growth. Seed packets are part annual and part
51 herbaceous perennial.

52

53 Mr. Clement asked if a demonstration would occur first and suggested getting permission from the
54 Swasey Parkway Trustees for an area to plant.

55

56 MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned to participate in the Pollinator Pathway Seed Pathway program and
57 reserve a packet for demonstration and reserve four more. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote
58 was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

59

60 Ms. Murphy indicated that ideas of locations can be emailed to her to vet potential locations.

61

62 3. Alewife Festival

63

64 Mr. Koff noted there was a meeting online yesterday; Mr. Clement was also there. The festival will take
65 place on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 10 AM to 1 PM at Founder's Park with setup at 9 AM.

66

67 Ms. Murphy noted there will be no kayak event, food trucks or film festival, just tables at Founder's
68 Park. Each table could have a stamp for attendees to receive a passport stamp and turn in the postcard
69 for raffle prizes. A rain barrel was donated by Public Works, and she has four Alewife glasses left. Ms.
70 Murphy reported that Mr. Glowacky is considering setting up an underwater camera to connect with the
71 library but running the conduit is a bit challenging. There could be 30-minute tours at the String Bridge.
72 Mr. Welch volunteered to help with tours. New Hampshire Fish & Game will bring fish to demonstrate.
73 Mr. Koff noted he will try to get the groundwater model and Enviroscape model. Mr. Mattera noted
74 that PREP will have a couple of tables connected to Great Bay but no printed materials. Their state
75 conference is June 2nd. Mr. Koff noted that Sarah is volunteering to do an art project with a block of
76 Alewife which would be strung together to simulate the migration. Ms. Murphy noted there could be a
77 lawn care techniques table with the theme healthy lawns/clean water brochure. She asked if anyone
78 could loan a snowblower and mower.

79

80 Ms. Murphy recommended starting the festival with a talk and having coffee or water. The Commission
81 recommended reimbursing Sarah for the canvas and paint.

82

83 MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned to approve up to \$200 for public relations and incidentals for the
84 Alewife Festival. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion
85 passed unanimously.

86 4. 2022 Sustainable Activities Report Review

87

88 Ms. Murphy distributed the Sustainable Activities Report for the Commission to review. Mr. Clement
89 recommended comparing pounds of waste recycled instead of dollars spent. Mr. Koff recommended a
90 bar graph to show data year over year. Ms. Murphy recommended putting the graph on the
91 introduction dashboard page.

92

93 5. NHACC Dues – payment authorization

94

95 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve \$900 for the NHACC Annual Dues. Mr. Mattera seconded the
96 motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

97

98 6. Committee Reports

99

100 a. Property Management

101

102 i. Raynes – repair progress update

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104 Ms. Murphy reported the repairs are continuing at Raynes. Only two windows needed
105 replacement parts. Clapboards are painted and store onsite. Brackets will connect sills
106 to the foundation to correct bowing. The lawn area needs mowing to control ticks and
107 keep the scaffolding clear. Mr. Madison volunteered to help with mowing. Ms. Murphy
108 noted there could be an open barn to display some of the work or Bob Glowacky could
109 come out and make a video.

110

111 Ms. Murphy indicated the lease with the farmers needs to be renewed, if the Select
112 Board agrees.

113

114 ii. SST Student Cleanup - Morrissette

115

116 Ms. Murphy reported three groups of 20 students each will divide up to do the clean-up.
117 Ms. Murphy noted there could be a contest for the most trash removed and if there is
118 time some invasives could be removed.

119

120 b. Trails

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122 i. McDonnell Gate Stewards

123

124 Ms. Murphy reported stewards are needed to help with the gates and if interested to contact
125 her at Kmurphy@exeternh.gov

126

127 ii. Cubie Rd Trail Steward Request – Tabled

128

129 c. Outreach Events

130

131 i. Community Clean-up – townwide – (4/17/21 supply pick up, drop off 4/22 at landfill)

132

133 Ms. Murphy noted townwide clean-up is next week. Supplies can be picked up from 7 AM to 3
134 PM at Public Works. Two volunteers can be located at a table downtown to hand out supplies.
135 Trash can be dropped off at the Transfer Station or contact Public Works to let them know
136 where to pick up.

137

138 Ms. Murphy reminded that April 22nd is Earth Day.

139

140 ii. Planning for joint meeting with SAC & EC in April – Farmer’s Market opportunity

141

142 Ms. Murphy noted that the joint event would take place seasonally once a month with a
143 different theme or activity to be promoted starting Thursday afternoon, May 11th 2:30 PM to 6
144 PM. There would be about six days out of the season. Ms. Belanger offered to bring it up at the
145 Select Board meeting on Monday. There could be a kayak tour at the end to highlight the Parks
146 & Recreation rentals.

147

148 iii. Spring Tree Program (delivery 4/24-28, presentation 5/5)

149

150 Ms. Murphy reported that Peter will host the Spring Tree Program 4/24 to 4/28. Volunteers are
151 needed to separate the bulk trees into individual bags, Saturday and Sunday afternoon. The
152 fifth graders are given seedlings to take home and grow and photograph the progress of their
153 growth.

154

155 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve \$338 to come from the Conservation land
156 administration category to reimburse Peter for expenses. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A
157 vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

158

159 iv. Watershed Walks Opportunity (Summer)

160

161 Ms. Murphy reported the Great Bay Water Keepers are looking for different communities to
162 host a walk along the river and give a talk. There would be four to six walks and a Paddle and
163 Pour event – Oyster and Beer party at Creek Farm/Sagamore Creek. Ms. Murphy will forward
164 the email to Ms. Belanger to share with the Select Board. Mr. Welch and Mr. Mattera
165 volunteered to help.

166

167 d. Other Committee Reports

168

169 i. River Study

170

171 Mr. Mattera reported on the Coastal Resiliency Grant and Pickpocket Dam feasibility.

172

173 Mr. Clement noted that blockages along the river used to be cleared by someone. Ms. Murphy
174 noted because of liability groups couldn’t continue to do it.

175

176

177 ii. Sustainability

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179 ii. Energy/CPAC

180

181 Ms. Murphy reported that Energy & Sustainability had its joint meeting and presenters were
182 invited from NE Energy & Efficiency Partnership. Roles of building codes were discussed to
183 incentivize more efficient construction. They discussed how Durham adopted the more
184 progressive approach of the current energy code once its printed whereas NH just adopted the
185 2018 code last January and 2023 will be coming next. It is up to individual communities to adopt
186 more progressive codes.

187

188 iv. Tree

189

190 Ms. Murphy reported that the Tree Committee received a growth award and Exeter was again
191 named as a Tree City USA.

192

193 7. Approval of Minutes

194

195 i. February 21, 2023 Meeting - Tabled

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197 ii. January 10, 2023 Meeting - Tabled

198

199 8. Correspondence

200

201 Ms. Murphy noted that she received an email about former Conservation Commission member, Carlos
202 Guindon, who has returned to Costa Rica and is battling ALS. A Go Fund Me Page has been set up. She
203 will send the email to Ms. Belanger to share with the Select Board.

204

205 Ms. Murphy reported concern received from a resident about Pine Meadows and huge equipment near
206 the wetland. She went to the site with Code Enforcement Officer Doug Eastman and found there were
207 no violations, work was being conducted in a man-made drainage swale. They recommended using a silt
208 sock to prevent erosion and let the resident know of the findings.

209

210 9. Other Business

211

212 i. Vacancies.

213

214 Mr. Koff noted that this would be Ms. Eberhart's last meeting if she was able to be here tonight
215 and again thanked her for her service and indicated there were vacancies on the Commission to
216 fill. Ms. Murphy reported that she had received an application. Mr. Clement noted there would
217 be reappointments and restricting at the next meeting.

218

219 ii. Wetlands markers at 3CI

220

221 Mr. Welch asked about the pink ribbons marking the wetlands near the parking lot at 3CI. Mr.
222 Welch noted clearing. Ms. Murphy noted the Town approved the Gateway development back in
223 2017 and protected 13 vernal pools.

224

225 10. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (5/9/23), Submission Deadline (4/28/23)

226

227 11. Adjournment

228

229 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9 PM seconded by Mr. Clement. A vote was taken,
230 all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

231

232 Respectfully submitted,

233

234 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

235 Via Exeter TV