

Exeter Conservation Commission
May 9, 2023
Nowak Room
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, Nick Campion, Kyle Welch, Dave Short, Alternate Don Clement, Alternate Bill Campbell (remotely), Alternate Valorie Fanger and Nancy Belanger, Select Board Representative

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

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

2. Public Comment

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

Action Items

1. Draft conservation deed for the proposed conservation area associated with the Carlisle subdivision off Watson Road (Barry Geier of Jones & Beach)

The Board reviewed the draft deed and by-laws.

Barry Gier presented the proposed deed with conservation restrictions to be town-owned. He reviewed the five conditions of approval for the CUP which concerned addressing Fish & Game notes about Blanding Turtles and relevant species during construction, the HOA documents which include educational materials to provide owners, and a workshop every four years, the open space deed to be reviewed by the attorney, boundary disks, plan notes and Fish and Game protected placards. Mr. Koff noted there were a number of vernal pools adjacent to property boundaries.

Mr. Gier indicated the parcel was 98 acres in the residential zone and there will be a 12-lot open space subdivision with 76 acres deeded in conservation to the Town of Exeter. The property is near the Greater Oaklands Town Forest. Mr. Koff noted that however there will be no direct trail connection. Ms. Murphy noted that Fish & Game identified a trail that was there and did not recommend connecting.

44 Mr. Gier noted the change in slope from 3:1 to 2:1 on the final roadway plans.

45

46 Mr. Campbell asked about parking and access. Mr. Clement noted it will be a public road so parking
47 would be on street. Ms. Murphy indicated an area between lots 6 and 7 and a woods road. There is a
48 small trail and not many will park to use it.

49

50 Ms. Murphy indicated the primary goal of the easement is preservation more so than recreation as the
51 natural resource is significant. There will be no wheeled vehicles allowed.

52

53 Mr. Clement asked about legislation that had been pending concerning town land being open to the
54 public for hunting and Ms. Murphy noted that did not pass and she typically refers to the ordinance
55 when addressing questions about which town properties allow hunting.

56

57 Mr. Clement recommended adding no hunting in Section L, following no camping so it would read ...no
58 camping, or hunting. Mr. Clement noted he believed this would reduce the impact on the natural
59 resources. Mr. Short noted the proximity to houses. Mr. Gier expressed concerns that changes would
60 have to go back to Fish & Game. Mr. Koff noted vernal pools are seasonal in the spring where hunting
61 usually takes place in the fall. Mr. Welch noted he believed it should be consistent with the Oaklands.
62 Mr. Campion and Mr. Short agreed with Mr. Welch.

63

64 MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned to include no hunting in the easement conditions, Section L. Mr.
65 Campion seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Clement voted aye, Ms. Fanger abstained, Mr.
66 Campion, Mr. Short, Mr. Welch, Mr. Koff voted nay. The motion failed by a vote of 1-4-1.

67

68 Mr. Gier addressed the drainage easement. Maintenance will stay with the HOA. Ms. Murphy noted
69 the annual reporting requirement of the Planning Board.

70

71 MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned that the Commission reviewed the deed with conservation restrictions
72 and subject to legal counsel review, recommend the Select Board accept the deed. Mr. Koff seconded
73 the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.

74

75 Mr. Koff will work with Ms. Murphy to draft the letter to the Select Board.

76

77 Ms. Murphy asked about updating the ordinance to include this property. Mr. Clement noted the
78 ordinance related to discharge of firearms and there can be other hunting without firearms. Mr. Short
79 noted hunting is specifically prohibited at some conservation properties. Ms. Murphy recommended
80 tabling that discussion for now.

81

82 2. Pollinator Pathways Stepping Stone Seed Kit & *WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT*

83

84 Ms. Murphy reported that eight applications were received and as there were no recommendations for
85 a site, the Commission purchased three more seed kits so that all of the applicants could be awarded a
86 seed kit. Ms. Murphy announced the winners were: Catherine Ignagni, Stephanie Slabon, Andrea

87 Kohler, Jon Bergeron, Matt Greene, Natalie Ranalli, Mary Tegal and Anne Matthews. Ms. Murphy will
88 make sure the kits go out.

89

90 3. Alewife Festival – 4/13 10a-1p

91

92 Ms. Murphy provided a program outline for the Alewife Festival. Trevor Mattera will provide an
93 overview on the health of Great Bay including PREP SOE and Exeter’s results post-dam removal. Kyle
94 Welch will lead walks to the string bridge for an overview of the alewife migration. Ms. Murphy noted
95 passports will be collected and the Raffle Drawing will be held at 1:00 PM with drawings for the pint
96 glasses and rain barrel. Mr. Koff will have the groundwater model at his table and will check with Mr.
97 Mattera to see if he is bring the Enviroscape model. Mr. Koff noted that Sara will be bringing the fish
98 canvas and stickers. Ms. Murphy noted there will be children’s activities at the library and a scavenger
99 hunt.

100

101 4. SST Clean Up Morrissette – 5/10 7:50a – 10:50a

102

103 Ms. Murphy reported there will be wood for the bridging, and clean up of invasive species. Mr. Clement
104 warned that the ticks are significant out there.

105

106 5. Exeter High School Trail Day (5/27 or 6/3, time TBD)

107

108 Mr. Murphy reported that there will be a Trail Day on June 3rd.

109

110 6. Committee Reports

111

112 a. Property Management

113

114 i. Raynes – repair progress update

115

116 Ms. Murphy reported the repairs are continuing at Raynes. Public Works helped with
117 regrading so the sills could be accessed.

118

119 ii. Mooseplate Grant

120

121 Ms. Fanger offered to help with grant research.

122

123 iii. Raynes Lease – Recommendations for Renewal

124

125 Ms. Murphy reported the lease was issued to the Davis’ for a period of five years with
126 the ability to extend for another five years upon mutual agreement. Mr. Davis stated
127 that they are still interested in haying the property. Ms. Murphy indicated the lease
128 with the farmers needs to be renewed, if the Select Board agrees.

129

130

131 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned that the Commission recommend the lease with Darren
132 Davis of Little Brook Farm be renewed for another period of five years. Mr. Campion
133 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.
134

135 b. Trails
136

137 Mr. Koff noted the trails appear to be in good shape.
138

139 c. Outreach Events
140

141 i. McDonnell Property Walking Group
142

143 Ms. Murphy reported there will be a walking group with Parks & Recreation on
144 May 23rd.
145

146 ii. Spring Tree Report
147

148 Ms. Murphy reported the fifth grade students received their trees.
149

150 iii. Orienteering Event Reminder – June 4th 10a-12p
151

152 Mr. Welch reviewed the Orienteering Event planned with Up North Orienteers at Fort
153 Rock on June 4th. He indicated compasses are used with a map to find aches and teach
154 navigation. There is a \$10 charge per family.
155

156 iv. Earth Day
157

158 Ms. Murphy provided a link to the Earth Day video link on the Exeter website.
159

160 v. Water Quality Presentation at the Middle School
161

162 Ms. Murphy reported she did two presentations at the Middle School, the first on the
163 17th and the second on the 22nd.
164

165 vi. VRAP – Voluntary River Assessment Program
166

167 Ms. Murphy noted volunteers are needed for June. Mr. Koff will come out.
168

169 vii. Ipswich River Watershed
170

171 Ms. Murphy noted she led a presentation virtually and in person with Ipswich as they
172 have the same issue with dam removal as Exeter had and they wanted to hear about
173 Exeter's experience and the return of the fish. Mr. Clement noted Durham asked about
174 it last year.
175

176 d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree)
177

178 Mr. Clement asked about the citizen’s petition concerning plastics that was passed and what the
179 next step is. Ms. Murphy noted that she submitted a draft proposal to the Select Board for the
180 May 22nd agenda.
181

182 7. Approval of Minutes

183
184 i. February 21, 2023 Meeting

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186 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Clement
187 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Ms. Fanger and Mr. Short abstained. The motion
188 passed 4-0-2.
189

190 ii. January 10, 2023 Meeting – Tabled

191
192 iii. April 11, 2023 Meeting

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194 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the April 11, 2023 meeting minutes. . Mr. Clement
195 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Ms. Fanger and Mr. Short abstained. The motion
196 passed 4-0-2.
197

198 8. Correspondence

199
200 9. Other Business

201
202 10. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (6/13/23), Submission Deadline (6/2/23)

203
204 11. Adjournment

205
206 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM seconded by Mr. Welch. A vote was
207 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
208

209 Respectfully submitted,

210
211 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary
212 Via Exeter TV
213 Zoom: 822 2519 1205