

Exeter Conservation Commission  
October 10, 2023  
Nowak Room  
10 Front Street  
7:00 PM  
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, Connor Madison, Kyle Welch, Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Don Clement, Alternate Michelle Crepeau, Alternate Bill Campbell (remotely) 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, introduced the members and activated the alternates.

2. Public Comment

There was no one from the public present outside of agenda items.

**Action Items**

1. Letter of Support for NOAA Grant Application funding Pickpocket Dam Removal

Mr. Koff reported that Paul Vlasich presented the application to the River Committee. There are no matching funds with this grant due from the Town. Mr. Clement indicated that Mr. Mattera did a wonderful job advocating for the application and this \$1 million option is a great opportunity to solve the problem without taxation and less expensive than the other two options. He noted that he understood the Select Board already voted in favor of it.

Mr. Koff noted the only reason to keep the dam is the recreational opportunity the flat water above provides but given the success of the impact already seen by the Great Dam removal he would be in favor of it.

Ms. Murphy noted that the letter would need to go to the consultant by Friday. Funding would be for next year, approximately 7/1/2024.

MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned to authorize the Chair to sign a letter in support of the Town applying to the NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal grant application for purposes of removal of Pickpocket Dam and restoration of the Exeter River. M. Madison seconded the motion. A roll call

44 vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Madison voted  
45 aye, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye and Mr. Campbell voted aye. The motion  
46 passed 7-0-0.

47

48 Mr. Koff stated that he would send the letter.

49

## 50 2. By-Laws Annual Review

51

52 Ms. Murphy provided copies of the By-Laws to the Commission for review.

53

54 Mr. Clement questioned whether the time to respond to applications were still valid, as the state keeps  
55 changing them. Ms. Murphy noted the time for responding to Dredge and Fill applications was changed  
56 from 30 days to 45 days. Ms. Belanger recommended referencing the RSA. Mr. Madison questioned  
57 whether the state has updated the RSA as they are somewhat behind. Ms. Murphy recommended  
58 removing the 30 days and changing it to "time for review." She noted that if the Commission's next  
59 meeting was not in that time frame, they could ask for an additional 30 days if their meeting is beyond  
60 the deadline. Mr. Koff agreed with Ms. Murphy.

61

62 Mr. Koff noted a similar response timeline in Item 7 and did not believe it needed a time frame. Ms.  
63 Belanger recommended checking that and referencing the RSA. She recommended changing Selectmen  
64 to Select Board.

65

66 Mr. Madison asked about updating terms. Currently after a member serves two consecutive terms they  
67 can serve as an alternate for the next term. Ms. Belanger noted that Boards and Committees are having  
68 trouble finding volunteers right now and she will bring it up at the next Select Board meeting. Mr.  
69 Clement recommended leaving it as is until clarified.

70

71 MOTION: Mr. Madison motioned to approve the By-Laws as amended. Mr. Clement seconded the  
72 motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye,  
73 Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye and Mr. Campbell voted aye.  
74 The motion passed 7-0-0.

75

## 76 3. Funding Request in support of picking up 15 Liberty Elm trees - \$380

77

78 Ms. Murphy reported that members of the Tree Committee made two trips, one to pick out the trees and  
79 another to pick them up and she would like to reimburse them for their mileage.

80

81 Mr. Koff asked where the trees were planted and how big they were and Ms. Murphy indicated the  
82 trees were 1" caliper and about 6-8' high and that she knew two were planted on the north side of  
83 Swasey Parkway, two at the library and two at Park Street Common and some at Brickyard Park and will  
84 provide a list.

85

86 Mr. Clement asked how the other Liberty Elms that were planted years ago were doing and Ms. Murphy  
87 noted after 28-30 years only one was replaced that she knew of. Mr. Campbell noted some were  
88 planted at Gayle Park at Linden, Front and Pine Street.

89  
90 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the expenditure of \$380 from the Conservation Land  
91 Administration budget line to reimburse Tree Committee volunteers for mileage to pick up and  
92 transport 15 donated trees. Mr. Cambell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau  
93 voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye,  
94 Mr. Clement voted aye and Mr. Campbell voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.

95  
96 4. Funding Request in support of NHACC annual meeting registration - \$180  
97

98 Ms. Murphy noted that if members wanted to attend the NHACC annual meeting there was \$180 left in  
99 the budget. Registration is \$60 to register early and \$75 for late, per member.

100  
101 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$180 from the Conservation  
102 Education and Training budget line for member registration for the NHACC Annual Meeting. Mr.  
103 Clement seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye,  
104 Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye and Mr.  
105 Campbell voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.

106  
107 5. Upcoming Event Reminders  
108

109 Ms. Murphy reminded these events were coming up:

- 110
- 111 • 10/11 All Boards Meeting, Exeter Library - 6:30 PM
  - 112
  - 113 • 10/18 Right to Know Training, Exeter Library - 6:30 PM
  - 114
  - 115 • 11/4 NHACC Annual Meeting - 2:30 PM
  - 116

117 Mr. Clement noted the agenda for the training is on the Town website and a representative from NHMA  
118 will be presenting on the 91-A Right to Know training.

119  
120 6. Committee Reports  
121

122 a. Property Management  
123

124 Ms. Murphy reported that she talked with Kathy Norton who is the daughter of John Raynes, who  
125 lives across the street from Raynes Farm and she let her know that she has seen some bird dog  
126 training going on and questioned, given the number of kennels, whether it was potentially a  
127 commercial operation, which is not allowed.

128  
129 The Commission agreed that Ms. Murphy should look into it.

130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173

Ms. Murphy noted Ms. Norton had taken some old cedars down and had offered the lumber for sign posts if the Commission were interested.

b. Trails – Partial Trail Closure Notice

Ms. Murphy reported Eversource put up the trail closure signs in connection with the work they are doing which is now pushed out about three to six more weeks. Mr. Madison asked about parking on the street by the trailhead and Ms. Murphy did not recommend doing that. Mr. Clement agreed.

c. Outreach Events

Mr. Koff noted it was almost time to start planning the next Alewife Festival.

Ms. Murphy will bring dates to the next meeting for the February Full Moon Snowshoe walk at Raynes.

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

Energy Committee – Electric Vehicle Day was cancelled due to rain.

Tree Committee – Ms. Murphy noted the Tree Committee was recognized for their accomplishments by the Select Board and offered to be their own Committee rather than a subcommittee, but they stated they would like to remain a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. The Committee was asked what they need to be successful, and they sat down with Public Works and requested funding for equipment such as a truck body, chipper and water transport as well as \$10,000 for a consultant. Jay Perkins and his crew would receive training on best management practices and insect identification and control. The first-year budget would be \$80,000 and the next year would be less.

SAC – No October meeting

Ms. Murphy reported that DES will be doing a site walk of the Rugg property on November 3<sup>rd</sup> if a member of the Commission would like to go.

Ms. Crepeau asked about the grant applications and Mr. Koff reported that both applications have been submitted. Ms. Murphy noted boundary issues and title report are being reviewed and are still being worked on for one and may extend the timeline.

Ms. Murphy reported the Moose plate grant for Raynes Farm was successful. They will have two years to expend the funds so if not this year than it can be in next year’s warrant article.

5. Approval of Minutes

- September 11, 2023 Site Walk – Rugg Property

174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213

MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the September 11, 2023 Site Walk Minutes. Mr. Madison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement abstained and Mr. Campbell abstained. The motion passed 5-0-2.

- September 12, 2023 Site Walk – Rider Property

MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the September 12, 2023 Site Walk Minutes. Ms. Crepeau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Madison abstained, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement abstained and Mr. Campbell abstained. The motion passed 4-0-3.

- September 12, 2023 Meeting

Mr. Koff and Ms. Murphy recommended edits.

MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes, as amended. Mr. Clement seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye and Mr. Campbell abstained. The motion passed 6-0-1.

- September 25, 2023 Public Hearing

Mr. Koff recommended an edit to Line 51.

MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes, as amended. Mr. Madison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Madison abstained, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye and Mr. Campbell abstained. The motion passed 5-0-2.

6. Correspondence

7. Other Business

8. Next Meeting; Date Scheduled 11/14/23, Submission Deadline 11/3/23

214 9. Adjournment

215

216 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM seconded by Mr. Madison. A roll call vote  
217 was taken, Ms. Crepeau voted aye, Mr. Welch voted aye, Mr. Koff voted aye, Mr. Campion voted aye,  
218 Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Clement voted aye and Mr. Campbell voted aye. The motion passed 7-  
219 0-0.

220

221 Respectfully submitted,

222

223 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

224 Via Exeter TV

225 Zoom ID 830 0895 7614