

Exeter Conservation Commission
November 14, 2023
Wheelwright 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, Dave Short, Nick Campion, Kyle Welch, Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Valerie Fanger, and Alternate Michelle Crepeau.

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, introduced the members and activated all of the alternates.

2. Public Comment

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

Action Items

1. Webster Ave Pump Station and Force Main Upgrade (Britt Eckstrom, Wright Pierce)

Britt Eckstrom of Wright Pierce presented the application of behalf of the Exeter DPW for recommendation to NH DES for a Wetland Permit Application to upsize the existing pump station to meet the current and future demand. There will be 7,747 SF permanent and 7,400 SF temporary impacts to the tidal buffer and within the highest observable tide line.

Ms. Eckstrom indicated the 8” force main will be replaced with a 12” main and there will be a 24” culvert replacement in the same location. She described the planned demo of the existing pump station once the replacement is complete and the planned replacement of the generator. There will be new pavement for a turnaround for emergency vehicles and equipment. The lot site is within 100’ of the tidal buffer. She described restoration with loam and seeding and protection methods during construction such as silt fence and sock and monitoring. She noted that Marc Jacobs, a wetland scientist, delineated the site. There are some freshwater wetlands which are not impacted. Impact to migratory birds was discussed but determined there was no tree clearing and they will not be nesting in the construction area. There is no clearing in the new paved area.

43 The Commission discussed the potential for sea level rise and Ms. Eckstrom indicated the design is for 3'
44 above for critical infrastructure based on design guidance. She noted the DES guidance looks at the
45 lifespan of the structures, which in this case is 50-75 years.

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47 Ms. Eckstrom described the timeframe for the project as a two-year duration starting in spring and
48 finishing in the summer of 2025.

49
50 Mr. Champion asked about the timeline coinciding with the Golf Course project across the street and Ms.
51 Murphy indicated DPW would coordinate that.

52
53 ***Mr. Koff motioned that the Commission has reviewed the application and has no objection to the***
54 ***application as proposed. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the***
55 ***motion passed unanimously.***

56
57 Mr. Koff indicated he would send a memo to the state.

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59 2. Committee Reports

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61 a. Property Management

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63 Ms. Murphy reported on Raynes Farm construction and what items had been completed and those
64 were need to be completed such as clapboard and trim which Mr. Bedford will not finish this year.
65 Some interior work can be done such as the second layer of flooring. She noted acceptance of the
66 \$20,000 Moose plate grant application and application for the \$50,000 Hometown Grant from T-
67 Mobile which will be determined in February. The Moose plate grant funding will be available for
68 two years. The Town deferred the project for at least a year. Ms. Murphy noted the remaining cost
69 is \$76,000 less the \$20,000 for the Moose Plate grant so \$56,000.

70
71 Ms. Murphy reported the mowing has been done. Mr. O'Hearn discovered a lean to near the Cole
72 Property. There have been several hunting issue calls which can be addressed with signage.

73
74 Ms. Murphy noted she was somewhat behind on monitoring and some of the members volunteered
75 to help.

76
77 Ms. Murphy reported that Sig Sauer volunteered time helping with bridges and planting.

78
79 b. Trails

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81 Ms. Murphy reported signs were posted along the brook and Eversource has put up caution tape
82 where they are working.

83
84 The Commission thanked Mr. Whitehouse for his work cleaning up the trails on Continental and
85 Allen Street.

86

87 Ms. Murphy noted there used to be a trailhead marker and recommended 4x4 posts at the trail
88 could be a good project they could do.

89
90 c. Outreach Events

91
92 Ms. Murphy and Mr. Welch recommended a bird counting event seasonally with a point system for
93 unique bird identification and photographs. Ms. Murphy will add Mr. Welch as a contributor and
94 launch the contest in January. Mr. Campion noted the Merlin app was a good tool to identify birds
95 by sound.

96
97 d. Other Business

98
99 Ms. Murphy reviewed the Ryder and Rugg Property grant applications and site walks in November.
100 There are some issues with land owners and titles.

101
102 Ms. Murphy and Ms. Fanger attended the NHACC conference and discussed some interesting
103 funding done by East Kingston who did a \$4 million bond article over 20 years which will allow them
104 to bond as needed and not have to wait for town meeting for every project.

105
106 e. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)

107
108 3. Approval of Minutes

- 109
110 • October 10, 2023 Meeting

111
112 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the October 10, 2023 Minutes. Mr. Welch seconded the
113 motion. A vote was taken: Mr. Short abstained, Ms. Crepeau abstained and Mr. Campion
114 abstained. The motion passed

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116 4. Correspondence

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118 5. Next Meeting; Date Scheduled 12/12/23, Submission Deadline 12/1/23

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120 6. Adjournment

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122 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM seconded by Mr. Short. A vote was
123 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

124
125 Respectfully submitted,

126
127 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary
128 Via Exeter TV