

1 Exeter Conservation Commission Public Hearing
2 September 25, 2023
3 Nowak Room
4 10 Front Street
5 6:30 PM
6 Draft Minutes
7

8 **Call to Order**
9

10 1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)
11

12 Present at tonight’s meeting were by roll call, Chair Andrew Koff, David Short, Treasurer, Nick Campion,
13 Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Michelle Crepeau. Also present were members of the Exeter Select Board
14 Niko Papakonstantis, Molly Cowan, Dan Chartrand, Julie Gilman, Nancy Belanger.
15

16 Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner and Russ Dean, Town Manager
17 and Melissa Roy, Assistant Town Manager.
18

19 2. Call the Meeting to Order
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21 Mr. Koff called a meeting to order for a Public Hearing for the consideration of the expenditure of
22 \$100,000 from the Exeter Conservation Fund for the acquisition of an Executory Interest Deed on Tax
23 Map 113-3 and 113-5.
24

25 Mr. Short made the motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Nick Campion and passed
26 unanimously by roll call vote with all members responding in the affirmative (5-0).
27

28 Mr. Koff introduced Jeremy Lougee from Southeast Land Trust to provide an overview of a conservation
29 project that includes 156 acres in 3 towns (Exeter, Kensington and E. Kingston) of which approximately
30 21 acres are in Exeter. He described the resources that would be protected through conservation of this
31 land including preservation of the watershed for Great Brook which drains to the Exeter River,
32 significant farmland soils, floodplain, aquifer protection, pollutant attenuation. He stated it is a high
33 priority area for the NH Coastal Plan, more than 100 acres scores average or above average by The
34 Nature Conservancy’s climate resiliency plan, it is within the Top Tiers for habitat in NH Fish and Game
35 wildlife action plan, is a wildlife connectivity core area, abuts existing conservation lands, is a designated
36 tree farm, and a historic brick yard from which many Academy building bricks came from.
37

38 Ms. Belanger asked about which existing conservation lands abutted the abutted and Jeremy named
39 them and identified the town they are within. Ms. Gilman expressed support for the project. Ms.
40 Belanger summarized questions that were discussed at the September 12th Conservation Commission
41 meeting including water development, public access and parking. Ms. Gilman asked about how the
42 exclusion area would be defined and Jeremy stated that identifies the exclusion area. Mr. Lougee
43 clarified the public access that this is private property, which differs from land where property is

44 purchased by and owned by the town and that the property is for protection of open space. Ms.
45 Belanger inquired whether the trails would remain open to the public. Mr. Lougee explained provided
46 the landowner does not post the property, public can access the land as they do today.

47

48 Mr. Koff made a motion to close the public hearing. It was seconded by Dave Short, and passed by
49 unanimous vote.

50

51 Drew made a motion to authorize the use of \$100,000 from the conservation fund for the acquisition of
52 real property interest at tax map 113-3 and 113-5 in the name of the town by the Conservation
53 Commission pursuant to RSA 36A:4, contingent on Select Board authorization and securing the
54 additional funds and further authorization the chair or designee to sign a letter of support for the
55 application of a Drinking Water Trust Fund Grant for this project. By roll call vote all members voted in
56 the affirmative (5-0).

57

58 9. Adjournment

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60 MOTION: Mr Koff, moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM seconded by Mr. Campion. A vote was
61 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

62

63 Respectfully submitted,

64 Kristen Murphy