

Exeter Conservation Commission  
January 9, 2024  
Novak 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, Vice-Chair Trevor Mattera, Dave Short, Connor Madison, Kyle Welch, Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Valerie Fanger, Alternate Michelle Crepeau, Alternate Bill Campbell (remotely), Alternate Don Clement (remotely) and Nancy Belanger, Select Board Representative (remotely)

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, introduced the members and activated Alternate Valerie Fanger.

2. Public Comment

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

**Action Items**

1. Connect to Protect Grant/Support Opportunity

Ms. Murphy reported that an email was received from Lisa Wise at UNH Cooperative Extension Connect to Protect program. She noted it is a service grant of time to complete a project. Ms. Murphy recommended two potential projects. The first recommendation is to develop a project checklist and the second recommendation is to update the GIS files in Granite. She noted the work would move forward as a subcommittee over 2-4 months. The application deadline is Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Short, Mr. Koff and Mr. Mattera indicated their support of updating the GIS. Ms. Murphy noted it would be helpful to put the Commission to move forward when the NRI, last done in 2012, is updated. Mr. Koff recommended identifying people on the Commission who would be interested in working with them and starting the application.

MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to apply to the Connect to Protect service grant program. Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

44 2. Request for Letter of Support from TPL for the Community Forest grant application

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46 Ms. Murphy reported receiving an email from Lynette and Ann with the Trust for Public Land requesting  
47 an additional letter of support for a US Community Forest Grant of \$400,000 to benefit Newfields.

48

49 Mr. Short asked why if Exeter is partnering with Newfields aren't the grants being shared. Ms. Murphy  
50 explained that Newfields is poised and ready to put something on the ballot this year and they want to  
51 see community support. Mr. Short asked if they would make an equal effort for Exeter and Ms. Murphy  
52 indicated yes, at different times. She noted development of a community management plan would  
53 accompany the grant. Ms. Murphy indicated the Ruggs did not want to move forward without Exeter  
54 and their access is on the Newfield's side.

55

56 Mr. Koff asked if there were any update on the legal review and Ms. Murphy indicated there is a claim of  
57 ownership by the Ruggs and the Town of Exeter and the Ruggs hired a surveyor to study the deeds. Ms.  
58 Murphy noted Exeter's legal counsel has hired a licensed surveyor who is also a land law lawyer and  
59 they expect to hear something mid-January.

60

61 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned to authorize Drew Koff to sign the Letter of Support for the grant  
62 application for Newfields Exeter Community Forest project. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote  
63 was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

64

65 3. Committee Reports

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67 a. Property Management

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69 i. Raynes

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71 Ms. Murphy reported that Steve Bedard's contract was extended an additional year and she is  
72 waiting to hear from L-Chip concerning the extension approval, which she noted is not  
73 complicated at this stage.

74

75 Ms. Murphy reported that she filed a grant application with the Hometown grant and should  
76 hear something in February. She noted that Mr. Bedard has no issue working while another  
77 contractor works on different parts of the barn.

78

79 b. Trails

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81 i. Utility project

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83 Ms. Murphy reported that the fence seems to have been taken down but she has had no official  
84 word on trail closures.

85

86 ii. Deer Carcass

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88 Ms. Murphy reported correspondence has come in from multiple sources concerning a dead  
89 deer near the parking area and Fish & Game has been notified.

90

91 c. Outreach Events

92

93 i. February Full Moon Snowshoe (2/24 full moon – event date t/b/d)

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95 The Commission agreed to advertise a pop-up snowshoe event close to school vacation and wait  
96 to watch for the best weather and announce the date. Mr. Koff is available until February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
97 and Mr. Welch noted he can lead the event if on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Crepeau recommended  
98 reaching out to Recreation to see if their snowshoes can be available to use.

99

100 ii. Heard Bird Contest

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102 Mr. Welch reported 13 sightings but noted that no reports were posed on the Facebook page.  
103 He recommended Conservation stickers for prizes.

104

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

106

107 Ms. Murphy reported there will be a presentation on the Feasibility Study for Pickpocket Dam at City  
108 Hall on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

109

110 6. Approval of Minutes - December 12, 2023 Meeting

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112 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the December 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Mattera  
113 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

114

115 7. Correspondence

116

117 Ms. Murphy reported that a permit by notification was received for the Linden Street bridge over the  
118 Exeter River. No signature from the Commission is required. A staging area will be set up for  
119 equipment. Ms. Murphy will reach out to landowners.

120

121 8. Next Meeting; Date Scheduled 2/13/24, Submission Deadline 2/2/24

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123

124 9. Adjournment

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126 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. Mr. Koff seconded the  
127 motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

128 Respectfully submitted,

129 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

130 Via Exeter TV

131 Zoom ID 840 9822 7220