

Exeter Conservation Commission  
February 13, 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, Nick Champion, Kyle Welch, Alternate Valorie Fanger, Alternate Michelle Crepeau (remotely), Alternate Bill Campbell, Alternate Sean Torrez, 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 Alternates Valorie Fanger and Sean Torrez. Ms. Crepeau, who appeared remotely, noted she was alone in the room.

2. Public Comment

There was no one from the public present.

**Action Items**

1. Request for Commission recommendation on the acquisition of .45-acre parcel at 8 Hampton Road (Tax Map 69, Lot 6) identified as Parcel A on plan, to be combined with 4 Hampton Road (Tax Map 69, Lot 4) for the purpose of Planet Playground

Ms. Murphy noted that Greg Bisson from Parks & Recreation negotiated the purchase and sale agreement and that a recommendation from the Conservation Commission is required to move forward. Ms. Belanger noted that the property had been leased for many years, the lease had expired.

MOTION: Mr. Champion motioned to suggest that the Commission send a memo to the Select Board indicating that the Commission recommends the acquisition of the .45-acre parcel shown as Parcel A on plan provided, entitled “Lot Line Adjustment at 4 & 8 Hampton Road.” Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

2. Native Seed Library Update and Purchase Request

43 Ms. Murphy noted that an Academy student was interested in resurrecting the seed library previously at  
44 the Children’s Room of the library. Ms. Murphy recommended the Commission purchase wooden boxes  
45 with drawers which will be decorated, envelopes and index cards, and noted she was able to get a  
46 grocery bag full of seeds from Kingston and permission from the library. The project will be announced  
47 on Facebook, and she will send something to Bob Glowacky at Exeter TV.

48

49 Ms. Murphy noted some of the seeds require cold hardening in order to sprout in the spring. Mr. Short  
50 asked if there was a list and she noted the project would be done at the end of the month and will  
51 provide Mr. Short with a list.

52

53 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned to expend up to \$100 from the Conservation Land Administration budget  
54 line for the purchase of building a native seed library. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was  
55 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

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### 57 3. Earth Day Student Tree Project and Purchase Request

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59 Ms. Murphy reported that the Exeter Tree Committee has an elementary student from their  
60 environmental club, the Green Team, who is interested in promoting the big tree scavenger hunt this  
61 year. Ms. Murphy would like to provide four aluminum water bottles as prizes.

62

63 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to expend up to \$150 from the Conservation Land Administration budget  
64 line for the purpose of purchasing prizes for the student project. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. A  
65 vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

66

### 67 4. Sustainable Film Series and Rain Barrel Kits

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69 Ms. Murphy reported that an Academy student is interested in the four-season film series and an  
70 activity project related to climate change and sustainability. He would do the first flyer and promote the  
71 first film. The theme he chose is fast fashion, which is about how cheaply made clothes affect the  
72 environment. He will show the film done by Alex James – *Slowing Down Fast Fashion* at the library on  
73 February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 or 9:30 AM. The film is about an hour long. PEA has paid for the viewing license. The  
74 accompanying activity will be to donate to the Helpsy program to make that more well known.

75

76 Ms. Murphy reported that Public Works have barrels from the water treatment facility which they have  
77 cleaned up, made the hole in and provided a list of parts that can be purchased at RJs to convert the  
78 barrels to rain barrels. Ms. Murphy would like to fund up to ten kits to provide to the first ten who  
79 register for the film which will be selected by the Conservation Commission in March.

80

81 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$500 from the Conservation Land  
82 Administration budget line to order ten kits for rain barrels. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote  
83 was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

84

85

86 5. Committee Reports

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88 a. Property Management

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90 b. Trails

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92 Mr. Short noted the power line project is wrapping up and Watson Road is no longer a construction  
93 zone. The utility should be finished on Captain's Way in about two weeks. Ms. Murphy noted she is  
94 getting weekly updates.

95

96 Mr. Torrez asked about the large amount of road ballasts used and what will happen to them. Ms.  
97 Murphy noted she was told they would be covered with the existing top soil that was moved aside  
98 and that will be seeded and mulched, however reusing the existing soil makes sense as it already  
99 contains native seeds in it. Ms. Murphy recommended visiting the site before the Commission's  
100 March meeting and noted it will take some time to monitor the fresh restoration area. Mr. Short  
101 noted the Commission should evaluate the restoration and inspect the area when it is done. Mr.  
102 Short will look at it this week before the utility leaves the site. Ms. Murphy will send contact  
103 information to those who want to coordinate the trail replacement.

104

105 c. Outreach Events

106

107 i. February Full Moon Snowshoe (2/22 -registration required) [kmurphy@exeternh.gov](mailto:kmurphy@exeternh.gov)

108

109 Ms. Murphy reported the event will take place at the country club and there were no registrations  
110 yet. She asked if the event would still be held whether there was snow or not and the  
111 Commission indicated yes, unless it were raining or too muddy.

112

113 ii. Exploring Exeter Collaborative with Parks 3 PM 2/27, 3/27, 4/24 and 5/22

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115 Ms. Murphy noted Parks & Recreation will be promoting the Exploring Exeter walks on town-  
116 owned property and those interested can sign up for individual walks or all.

117

118 iii. [Heard Bird Contest Ongoing](#)

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120 Mr. Welch noted the contest will run through the end of March and then he may start a new one  
121 in the spring.

122

123 iv. Alewife Festival – May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM-1 PM

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125 Ms. Murphy reported the date for the Alewife Festival will be May 11<sup>th</sup>. She welcomed  
126 volunteers to help pull it together. She noted meeting with Fish & Game who confirmed they will  
127 be present, and Ms. Fanger will reach out to local business. Ms. Murphy noted she is working  
128 with Bob Glowacky to set up the underwater camera. Parks & Recreation will not be there but  
129 will have kayaks available. Eric is interested in doing a morning kayak tour before the festival.  
130 Mr. Welch will contact him to help out with that. Mr. Koff will reach out to the coastal program  
131 at DES.

132

133 Ms. Murphy reported she spoke to Connor O'Donnell at Fish & Game about potentially helping  
134 with the timed fish counts. There would be nine 10-minute counts from 7 AM to 7 PM each day  
135 from mid-April to the end of May. Fish and Game can do three of them and will need help with  
136 the other six. Mr. Welch asked how that would work and Ms. Murphy noted Fish and Game will  
137 provide training and there will be a form and on-line sign-ups for the time slots. Ms. Belanger  
138 recommended reaching out to the High School, Academy, and other resources like the Great Bay  
139 Charter School or UNH. Mr. Koff recommended organizing a meeting with Fish and Game. Ms.  
140 Murphy will coordinate the meeting.

141  
142 d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)

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144 i. Public Presentation on Pickpocket Dam Feasibility Study 2/27 at 6:30 PM

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146 Ms. Murphy reported that the Feasibility Study presentation will take place on February 27<sup>th</sup> at  
147 6:30 or 7 PM at Town Hall.

148  
149 6. Approval of Minutes - January 9, 2024 Meeting

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151 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the January 9, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Welch seconded the  
152 motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Mattera, Mr. Torrez and Mr. Campbell abstained, the motion passed 4-0-  
153 3.

154  
155 7. Town Meeting – 3/12/24

156  
157 Mr. Welch noted the warrant article for the purchase of the Rugg property had favorable comments at  
158 Deliberative Session. Mr. Short asked if the attorney was any closer to finishing the title work and Ms.  
159 Murphy indicated it was still being worked on and noted there were two citizen's petitions and the  
160 second did not have the support of the property owner, so it was amended to reflect that.

161  
162 8. Correspondence

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164 9. Next Meeting; Date Scheduled 3/12/24, Submission Deadline 3/1/24

165  
166 Mr. Koff noted that election of officers will be in April if anyone is interested in serving as Chair. The  
167 Board was polled to see if they wanted to keep the 3/12 meeting date as it is the same day as Town  
168 Meeting. The Board agreed to keep the 3/12 meeting date and time.

169  
170 10. Adjournment

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172 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. Mr. Welch seconded the  
173 motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

174 Respectfully submitted,

175 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary  
176 Via Exeter TV, Zoom ID 880 4755 8804