

1 Exeter Conservation Commission

2 April 9, 2024

3 Novak Room

4 10 Front Street

5 7:00 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, Vice-Chair Trevor Mattera, Dave Short,
13 Kyle Welch, Nick Champion, Connor Madison, Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Sean Torrez, Alternate
14 Michelle Crepeau, Alternate Valorie Fanger, Alternate Bill Campbell, and Alternate Don Clement
15 (remotely).

16
17 Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

18
19 Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and introduced the members.

20
21 2. Public Comment

22
23 There was no one from the public present.

24
25 **Action Items**

26
27 1. Rugg Property Update – Grants Timeline

28
29 Duane Hyde of SELT provided a handout of the memorandum updating the next steps and timeline of
30 the project. He noted there were two parcels of land, one in each town, moving forward concurrently.

31
32 Lynnette Batt (appeared remotely) and reported that Article 1 of the Newfields Warrant passed with a
33 67% vote in March and Exeter’s Article 24 passed with an 88% vote so the project will be moving ahead.
34 Referencing page two of the timeline she indicated that grant applications will be prepared at the end of
35 May. Last year applications submitted to the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund were denied
36 but they encouraged them to reapply in 2024. She noted they would be applying to L-CHIP this year for
37 both Newfields and Exeter under separate funding applications. She noted the third application would
38 be to the NH Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan which would be the same funding structure as the
39 Town of Newfields with a portion of likely loan forgiveness and a portion repayable loan principal. This
40 application would be due in May. The full L-CHIP application would be due in June.

41
42 Ms. Batt reported that the terms were agreed to with Ruggs and the next step is a Purchase and Sales
43 Agreement with a soft date of June 1st and to get the boundary issue resolved which has no update. She

44 noted grant awards would be notified this fall and then Exeter would have a town vote in March of
45 2025. Closing would be mid-2025.

46
47 Ms. Batt noted that they will be at the next Select Board meeting and would like a Conservation
48 Commission representative to discuss the community forest planning process. Mr. Koff and Mr. Welch
49 indicated they were interested. Mr. Short indicated he would be present at the Select Board meeting.

50
51 Ms. Batt indicated that she applied for \$400,000 in funding which is congressionally directed through
52 Senator Shaheen and Representative Pappas.

53
54 Ms. Batt explained reasons for applying for LWCF funding on the Newfields side of the project with the
55 goal that the towns not compete against each other but be equally funded. Ms. Batt noted with L-CHIP
56 however the reviewer would look at the applications concurrently and it was their suggestion to do
57 different applications, but they will probably review them as a single project. They indicated \$500,000
58 was unlikely last year and after consulting with them a lot on this, the ask was reduced a bit with
59 \$350,000 for Newfields and \$100,000 for Exeter, although they may award less but 50 acres would be
60 added as a bigger component.

61
62 Mr. Short asked about the boundary issues and the map showing the parcels. Ms. Batt noted what was
63 shown was what the homeowner believes to be accurate and what the application is based on but will
64 be updated if that changes. Mr. Short questioned whether having the boundary issues resolved would
65 make a more compelling application. Ms. Batt noted she hoped by the time the application was
66 submitted in late May or early June, the issue would be resolved.

67
68 Ms. Batt noted they would like to return to the Conservation Commission's next meeting on May 14th
69 and work on letters of support. They will be appearing before the Select Board on April 15th and on April
70 29th to hopefully get authorization to proceed with the SRF loan and get letters of support and an
71 authorized representative. She noted the Trust for Public Land would submit and administer the grant
72 but the state revolving fund would have the town be the applicant.

73
74 Ms. Batt noted a sub-committee could be put together. She would like to set up conversations with
75 both towns in July, if Exeter wants to be part of a joint community forest.

76
77 2. Rider Letter of Agreement

78
79 Duane Hyde of SELT noted that Lori Sommer will be taking the lead on the Rider project as Jeremy Lougee
80 has left for a job with a national group.

81
82 Mr. Hyde noted the LOA spells out the roles and responsibilities of SELT as the project manager and
83 baseline and the town's funding responsibility. Ms. Murphy noted legal had reviewed the LOA and that
84 when the time comes the easement will be worked out and executed by the Select Board.

85

86 Ms. Murphy noted \$500,000 was awarded from the state as part of the drinking water grant and
87 \$25,000 from local protection leaving the town contribution. A \$15,000 grant from Great Bay Resource
88 Protection Partnership will be applied for. Mr. Hyde noted the application is due next month.

89

90 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned that after reviewing the LOA the Commission authorize the Chair to sign
91 on their behalf. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion
92 passed 7-0-0.

93

94 3. Committee Reports

95

96 a. Property Management

97

98 i. Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee Update

99

100 Ms. Murphy supplied a copy of the Committee's meeting minutes and next steps. She indicated
101 the \$20,000 Mooseplate grant would fund clapboard replacement on the west side of the barn
102 by a separate contractor who would be familiar with Secretary of the Interior standards and
103 match the south side. An RFP would go out. \$75,000 would be needed to complete the project.
104 Because there is a historic resource pot and a conservation pot the town would not be
105 competing against the Rugg grant application with L-CHIP.

106

107 Ms. Murphy recommended scheduling a site walk with the members at the barn but did not
108 recommend a public meeting because of all of the equipment and work underway. Mr.
109 Campbell recommended having Bob Glowacky film a segment so the public could see it.

110

111 Ms. Murphy indicated mowing would be done as an early cut.

112

113 Ms. Murphy noted Ben Anderson held a walk at the Word Barn that was well attended and the
114 1st week of May would be ideal if the Commission wanted to do one.

115

116 b. Trails

117

118 Mr. Koff noted the trails were still pretty wet. Mr. Welch noted there was a lot of debris and
119 encouraged walkers to kick small sticks to the side so they wouldn't get caught in bike parts.

120

121 Mr. Welch noted there were 6-7 people at the monthly Recreation walk at Gilman Park. The next
122 walk will be on April 24th.

123

124 c. Outreach Events

125

126 i. Consideration of expenditure – Alewife Banner

127

128 Ms. Murphy indicated she had a list of over 20 attendees. She noted the cardboard sign will
129 need to be replaced and hopes to have one at the entrance to Founder’s Park and a second at
130 another location but has to get permission first.

131
132 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to expend up to \$100 for the event banners from the Conservation
133 Fund. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion
134 passed 7-0-0.

135
136 ii. Earth Day Town Wide Clean Up 4/15-22

137
138 Ms. Murphy noted that Public Works will have vests, gloves and trash bags. Ms. Murphy will be
139 in front of Town Hall on the 20th. Trash can be brought to the Transfer Station or Public Works
140 can be contacted for pick up on Monday.

141
142 iii. Alewife Festival – May 11, 2024 10a-1p

143
144 Ms. Murphy noted there will be a virtual check-in meeting before the event. Greg Bisson will
145 have some tables for those who might need them. Mr. Welch noted there will be a wildlife
146 photographer present and if anyone else wants to display their work to contact Ms. Murphy.

147
148 iv. Citizen’s Science Project – River Herring Migration Count

149
150 Ms. Murphy reported there was training last weekend and 32 people came. She noted that
151 those who are interested can shadow a volunteer and contact Ms. Murphy. The time slots are
152 ten minutes any day of the week.

153
154 v. SST Student Clean Up – 5/13, 5/15, 5/21

155
156 Ms. Murphy noted there were three potential dates on the 13th, 15th and 21st and she would like
157 to have a helper. Mr. Welch indicated he could help. There are two classes from 7:30 to 11:30.

158
159 d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)

160
161 Ms. Murphy indicated she hopes River Study will present the Pickpocket Dam Feasibility Study at the
162 Alewife Festival.

163
164 Mr. Mattera indicated he went to the River Study presentation and noted feedback will be pooled
165 and put into a document by the consultant and Mr. Vlasich.

166
167 The Sustainability and Energy Committee met in early March and may meet quarterly or semi-
168 annually together. Ms. Murphy noted the Sustainability Committee is looking for members and to
169 contact her if interested. She discussed the proposal for a Styrofoam collection event and the
170 potential grant for equipment to be purchased.

171

172 4. Expense consideration – NHACC Dues

173

174 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to expend \$875 for the NHAC dues from the Conservation Fund. Mr.
175 Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

176

177 5. Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2024 Meeting

178

179 Ms. Murphy recommended edits.

180

181 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes, as amended. Mr. Short
182 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

183

184 6. Correspondence

185

186 There were no updates outside of agenda items.

187

188 7. Election of Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer/Clerk)

189

190 Mr. Campbell nominated Dave Short as Chair. Mr. Koff nominated Connor Madison as Vice-Chair. Mr.
191 Madison nominated Mr. Koff as Treasurer/Clerk. Mr. Campion seconded the motion. A vote was taken,
192 all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

193

194 **Other Business**

195

196 Next Meeting; Date Scheduled 5/14/24, Submission Deadline 5/3/24

197

198 8. **Adjournment**

199

200 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Mr. Short seconded the
201 motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

202

203 Respectfully submitted,

204 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

205 Via Exeter TV, Zoom ID 850 7175 6499