

1 Exeter Conservation Commission
2 Nowak Room
3 Town Hall
4 10 Front Street
5 April 14, 2026
6 7:00 PM
7 Approved Minutes
8

9 **Call to Order**

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

12
13 Present at tonight's meeting were: Chair Dave Short, Vice-Chair Connor Madison, Trevor Mattera, Keith
14 Whitehouse, Valorie Fangor, Alternates: Kyle Welch, Sean Torres, Michelle Crepeau, and Bill Campbell
15 (electronically) and Select Board Representative Dan Chartrand.

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

18
19 Chair Short called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the members and alternates introduced
20 themselves

21
22 2. Public Comment

23
24 Keith Whitehouse talked about the Styrofoam recycling unit Exeter now has which is one of only two in
25 the state. This unit will reduce volume of Styrofoam in the landfill by up to 90%. He noted Styrofoam
26 takes five centuries to break down.

27
28 **Action Items**

29
30 1. Discussion of proposed new trail alignment in Oaklands Town Forest. Site walk was scheduled 4/9 at
31 5:30 PM.

32
33 Chair Short reported that he and Mr. Madison and Mr. Mattera were on the site walk last Thursday.

34
35 Dan Longcope of Fort Rock Riders stated that they walked "BLT" and are taking a look at consolidating
36 two trails into one. They will have a trail day to get things going. The goal is to do the work this season
37 before the snow falls.

38
39 Mike Mitchell stated that there will be official temporary closure signs posted.

40
41 Toby Ferdyn noted the importance of communication.
42

43 Mr. Torres expressed concerns that some people won't be happy and there was a lot of work put into
44 the trail they are considering closing. There is one short cut someone keeps opening up. Maybe signs
45 would work.

46
47 Mr. Whitehouse noted that working together with Fort Rock Riders will be beneficial. Mr. Chartrand
48 agreed.

49
50 Ms. Fangor noted the reason for the closure is to protect wildlife. Mr. Welch stated that the habitat
51 map is very powerful and could be made available to people to look at. Mr. Torres noted that attitudes
52 are mixed about preserving the ecosystem. Mr. Torres noted it will have impact and asked if the
53 Commission is okay with that. Ms. Murphy recommended explaining the rest rotation cycle.

54
55 Ms. Murphy noted that the project has been properly noticed.

56
57 Mr. Welch asked about getting information out to the public on the website. Mr. Torres recommended
58 posting with other maps online and noted that providing a reason is better than seeming arbitrary.

59
60 Chair Short noted there could be a newsletter item with FRR.

61
62 Mr. Longcope stated they wish to honor and respect the hard work that went into these classic trails and
63 while there will be some pushback but it is only a couple hundred yards. The improved trail will be
64 better than the existing, so they are giving this to get that.

65
66 Ms. Murphy asked about Conservation members walking the proposed trails. Mr. Longcope indicated
67 they have not. She recommended a member walk it. Chair Short and Mr. Whitehouse will walk it. Ms.
68 Murphy recommended GPS marking so that what they walk is what is designed in close proximity and o
69 get public feedback.

70
71 Chair Short discussed #3 and asked if a section could be replaced by #3. Mr. Longcope noted it would
72 cut off another ¼ mile, so it is a big ask.

73
74 Mr. Mattera recognized the amount of effort and thought out results and specific reasons. There is a
75 small amount of impact. The parcel is used for recreation, flood management, tree growth and
76 activities. If the specific use was for wildlife habitat they wouldn't allow any trails.

77
78 Mr. Welch asked about the loss from the Rugg property and if that likely migration was factored in.

79
80 Mr. Whitehouse asked that when the Rugg property gets developed would wildlife move to where they
81 are making new trails. Ms. Murphy noted it depends on the species. Mr. Whitehouse stated that Ms.
82 Murphy once told him that where there is a trail animals will pass through, but they will not live there.

83
84 Chair Short asked to schedule the walk for #2 and #3. Ms. Murphy recommended an email poll. Mr.
85 Torres suggested two hours. Chair Short recommended a weekday with meeting after. The property is
86 flagged. Mr. Longcope indicated they need to get started before vegetation leaves out.

87 MOTION: Mr. Madison motioned to approve the demo and BLT consolidation as reviewed last Thursday
88 on the site walk. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion
89 passed unanimously.

90

91 Mr. Chartrand recommended Tuesday with a weather date on Wednesday. Chair Short recommended
92 site walk on Tuesday with a meeting on Wednesday.

93

94 5. Committee Reports

95

96 a. Property Management

97

98 i. Raynes Farm Seasonal Maintenance

99 i. bi-weekly mowing estimate - \$125 per cut mowing from May 1 – October 31

100

101 Ms. Murphy noted the cost per cut is \$125, so \$1,750 for the season or less. The
102 appearance of the barn is hugely enhanced, and Mr. Whitehouse noted ticks are
103 mitigated.

104

105 MOTION: Chair Short motioned to have All Natural Landscape do the cut at \$125/each
106 around Rayne’s Barn from the Conservation Land Administration line item. Mr. Madison
107 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed
108 unanimously.

109

110 ii. Portapotty rental

111

112 Mr. Whitehouse recommended holding off as Stephen has a unit now until June. The
113 Commission should discuss a suitable location for a permanent spot that is accessible to
114 all. Ms. Murphy indicated an estimate from Pete for \$150 for an ADA accessible unit
115 which includes weekly cleaning.

116

117 b. Outreach Events

118

119 i. 4/25 Arbor Day Celebration @ Raynes for Liberty Elm (250th Event)

120

121 Ms. Murphy noted the two Elm trees were planted today from the Library at the Knoll. The
122 event will begin at 11 AM. Mr. Whitehouse noted some cleaning and equipment moving need
123 to be done ahead.

124

125 ii. Spring Tree Packing May 2 or 3

126

127 Ms. Murphy asked for volunteers to help package up the trees given to the Lincoln Street School
128 students for about an hour. Mr. Whitehouse and Ms. Fangor volunteered to help on 5/2.

129

130 iii. May 9th Alewife Festival

131
132 Ms. Murphy noted she has reserved Founders Park as first choice and Town Hall for inclement
133 weather. Drew Koff has an enviroscape they can borrow. Mr. Mattera offered to help train
134 someone to use it in the morning.

135
136 iv. May 16th Birch Tree Celebration

137
138 Ms. Murphy noted the Tree Committee will be at Swasey Parkway on May 16th the day of the
139 Team Music and Art Festival.

140
141 v. Standard permit application for the proposed Solid Waste Transfer Station,
142 ReSource Waste Services of Epping located at 270 Exeter Road in Epping, NH – Info Session
143 followed by public hearing 4/28 beginning at 5:30 PM

144
145 Ms. Murphy noted there will be a public information session on April 28th at 5:30 PM. Chair
146 Short noted the location is 270 Exeter Road. They plan to expand the facility from just
147 construction debris to full-fledged transfer station. There are concerns with the river, drinking
148 water and Great Bay. Ms. Murphy is attending. She noted the river runs through conservation
149 land. There is a virtual option. Mr. Chartrand noted the Select Board is sending a letter.

150
151 vi. Art in the Barn Event Planning 9/26 or 10/17

152
153 Ms. Crepeau noted the event in the barn is 9/26 but not part of the 250th Committee. She
154 reached out to Arts & Culture and hasn't heard back. Mr. Mattera recommended reaching out
155 to Great Bay Stewards, who put on an event, for contacts.

156
157 c. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy, Tree, CC Roundtable)

158
159 Ms. Murphy noted the Rain Barrel distribution is this weekend. Ms. Murphy will attend. She
160 noted only ten were sold.

161
162 Mr. Whitehouse noted the Styrofoam container will be online soon.

163
164 Ms. Murphy noted the Energy Committee held a power hour to talk about heat pumps and next
165 will do how to read energy bills.

166
167 Ms. Murphy noted the Tree Committee received a growth award.

168
169 Ms. Murphy reported the McDonald Conservation Area gate is being operated thanks to
170 Michelle, Tammy, Bill, Diane and Bruce.

171 Ms. Murphy questioned asking for \$50,000 this year at Town Meeting. The Commission
172 discussed other funding mechanisms such as the current use taxation penalty which other
173 commissions are funded by. Someone could come in and talk about it. Mr. Mattera asked
174 where the current use penalty funds go now and Mr. Chartrand indicated the general fund.

175
176 MOTION: Mr. Madison motioned to request \$50,000 for the Conservation Fund annually for the
177 2027 budget. Mr. Whitehouse seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the
178 motion passed unanimously.

179
180 Ms. Murphy noted that a sustainability certification process has been launched and two local
181 businesses have enrolled.

182
183 4. Notice of Proposal for Barn in Easement – Bunker/Barker Conservation Easement

184
185 Ms. Murphy noted that she has been notified the owner is putting up a pole barn which is allowed in the
186 easement without approval from the commission.

187
188 5. Election of Officers

189
190 MOTION: Mr. Madison motioned to nominate Dave Short as Chair. Ms. Crepeau seconded the motion.
191 A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

192
193 MOTION: Chair Short motioned to nominate Connor Madison as Vice-Chair. Mr. Mattera seconded the
194 motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

195
196 MOTION: Chair Short motioned to nominate Drew Koff as Treasurer and Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse
197 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

198
199 6. Correspondence

200
201 7. Next Meeting: 5/12/26, Submission Deadline: 5/1/26

202
203

204 8. Adjournment

205 ***Chair Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote***
206 ***was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

207

208 Respectfully submitted,

209 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

210 Via Exeter TV

211 Webinar ID: 869 7603 5641