

Exeter Conservation Commission  
Nowak Room  
Town Hall  
10 Front Street  
May 12, 2026  
7:00 PM  
Draft Minutes

**Call to Order**

1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)

Present at tonight’s meeting were: Chair Dave Short, Vice-Chair Connor Madison, Andrew Koff, Nick Champion, Trevor Mattera, Keith Whitehouse, Valorie Fangor, Alternates: Kyle Welch, and Select Board Representative Dan Chartrand.

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

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

2. Public Comment

Keith Whitehouse reported that the Styrofoam densifier is hooked up and training and education have started.

Mr. Whitehouse spoke about the Pairpoint Park project. They have raised \$35,000 for the cost of documents. He noted that he didn’t see any reason, safety wise, to not open it to the public. Mr. Koff noted he is in favor of opening the park and potentially saving the town some money. He noted access would be great, but the town and Select Board also had some points and he was unsure of the best course of action. He agreed it is unfortunate for it to take so long to open but understands that the town has other priorities. He noted it is slow but progressing. He agreed with Mr. Whitehouse’s statement “why can’t we just fill in the hole.” Mr. Whitehouse compared art in the park by noting “the river is our art.”

Chair Short agreed that it was possible for both sides to disagree but be correct in their decisions.

Mr. Chartrand explained that his reasons for recusing is because he leases his space for the bookstore from the donors of the land.

**Action Items**

1. In Stream Flow letter of support

44  
45 Ms. Murphy explained the state program which selects a priority river and generates data. Last  
46 Wednesday ESRAC had a presentation. She recommended sending the drafted letter to prioritize the  
47 Exeter River in the program and noted it is a perfect time for the town to have new data for the  
48 stormwater treatment plan.  
49  
50 Mr. Madison noted that the Exeter River is one of the highest ranked.  
51  
52 Mr. Koff asked if public works was involved and Ms. Murphy reported that Steve Cronin from public  
53 works attended the webinar and will go to the Select Board to get a letter. Town Engineer, Paul Vlasich,  
54 attended the presentation with the state.  
55  
56 Mr. Chartrand spoke to the diversity goals of ground and surface water and stated that he would be in  
57 favor of Conservation Commission sending the letter.  
58  
59 Chair Short asked how many were awarded and Ms. Murphy indicated one.  
60  
61 Mr. Koff spoke to drought concerns and noted on one occasion he witnessed little to no flow from Great  
62 Bridge.  
63  
64 MOTION: Mr. Madison motioned to approve sending the letter of support for inclusion of the Exeter  
65 River in the Protected & Stream Flow Study Program. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was  
66 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.  
67  
68 2. Trail Workshop with NHACC & AMC  
69  
70 Ms. Murphy reported there is a Trail Workshop in Gorham NH on June 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM to 4 PM  
71 partnered by NH Association of Conservation Commissions and Appalachian Mountain Club. The  
72 registration fee is \$45. Mr. Koff noted he couldn't go but asked if the Commission could send  
73 representatives from Fort Rock Riders. Mr. Welch agreed since they are the boots on the ground doing  
74 extensive trail work. Chair Short agreed and recommended letting Fort Rock Riders know to see if two  
75 representatives could attend.  
76  
77 MOTION: Chair Short motioned to support sending two civilian members to attend the workshop from  
78 the seacoast region. Mr. Koff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion  
79 passed unanimously.  
80  
81 3. Treasurer's Report  
82  
83 Mr. Koff reported that from the \$10,000 budget, \$1,300 has been expended and \$1,700 is planned,  
84 leaving a balance of \$6,745. He noted there will be more expenses.  
85  
86 Mr. Mattera asked about the line for salary and wages of \$820 and Ms. Murphy noted that is for the  
87 recording secretary.

88 Mr. Koff reported \$4,500 as a beginning balance in the Conservation Land Administration account with  
89 \$2,312 remaining.

90  
91 Mr. Koff asked how funds were earmarked and Ms. Murphy noted there are none right now but in the  
92 past they used a spreadsheet for tracking.

93  
94 4. Committee Reports

95  
96 a. Property Management

97  
98 i. Raynes Farm/Expense:

99  
100 Mr. Whitehouse thanked Steve and the other volunteers for the work on the barn which he  
101 noted is ready. He encouraged the Commission to think about ways that it could be used on a  
102 regular basis to get people out there. Ms. Murphy recommended soliciting suggestions on the  
103 website. Chair Short recommended school field trips. Mr. Chartrand noted he is impressed with  
104 how much the Commission has gotten done and appreciates all of the volunteers for the work  
105 they've done.

106  
107 Ms. Murphy provided a short history of all of the grants and volunteer work, repairs and  
108 funding. She thanked Mr. Whitehouse for both his labor of time and donations. Mr.  
109 Whitehouse noted there is still some work to be done on the silo connecting building so that  
110 water will flow off. He recommended getting fundraising mechanisms in place so that they can  
111 accomplish their goals. Mr. Koff asked about having a QR Code sign to receive funds for  
112 donations.

113  
114 Ms. Murphy recommended inviting town staff and the Select Board out there and noted there  
115 will be a dedication bench this summer. Mr. Welch recommended having ExeterTV do a  
116 segment. Mr. Koff recommended having them promote an open house and grand opening of  
117 the barn. He asked if they could have a QR Code Sign to receive donations for maintenance.

118  
119 Ms. Murphy discussed the town policy on donations and Mr. Chartrand reviewed the need for  
120 the paper trail for auditing purposes. Ms. Murphy noted it is not as simple unfortunately as  
121 having a container people can stuff cash into and some want to be able to use Venmo. She  
122 noted the best approach is to create a 501c3 such as Friends of Raynes to manage events and  
123 funding.

124  
125 1. Portapotty May through September \$750 (\$150/mo.)

126  
127 Mr. Mattera noted the price is great. Chair Short agreed and questioned positioning.  
128 Mr. Whitehouse noted it is a long walk from the barn to the parking lot and while not  
129 wanting to detract from the barn's aesthetics' it could be positioned somewhere in  
130 between.

131

132 MOTION: Chair Short motioned to approve rental of the portapotty from May to  
133 September for \$750. from the Conservation Land Administration Fund with Mr.  
134 Whitehouse sighting it. Mr. Campion seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were  
135 in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

136  
137 ii. Trail Bridge Supplies \$1,250

138  
139 Chair Short noted that Fort Rock Riders have spent over \$2,000 out of pocket. Mr. Madison  
140 recommended they track their time and expenses for in kind contributions. Mr. Welch noted  
141 the group was out their working in the rain until dark and it would be a great show of support  
142 from the Commission to reimburse them. Ms. Murphy will ask them to send their receipts.

143  
144 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve \$1,250 for trail building supplies from the Conservation  
145 Land Administration account. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in  
146 favor, the motion passed unanimously.

147  
148 b. Outreach Events

149  
150 i. 4/25 Arbor Day Celebration Event Report

151  
152 Ms. Murphy reported that the event at Raynes was great. It started with a proclamation being  
153 read. Steve Jones from Pairpoint Park was there. Liberty Elms were planted. Julie Gilman  
154 talked about the mast tree riot and refreshments were served and there were many tables with  
155 information. Approximately 35 attended but people were still coming after it ended.

156  
157 ii. May 9<sup>th</sup> Alewife Festival Event Report

158  
159 Ms. Murphy reported that the Alewife Festival was Saturday at Town Hall and all sorts of groups  
160 were there. She believes this is the most attended she can remember. She thanked Mr. Koff,  
161 Mr. Welch, Mrs. Koff, Mr. Mattera, Mr. Madison, and Ms. Crepeau for attending. She noted  
162 Julia Lanter from the library was there and suggested the library might be a better choice if they  
163 couldn't be at Founder's Park due to weather, due to acoustics. Mr. Koff asked the status of the  
164 dam removal and Mr. Mattera noted there is a River Advisory Committee meeting next week.

165  
166 iii. May 16<sup>th</sup> Birch Tree Celebration

167  
168 Ms. Murphy noted the Tree Committee is having the large birch tree celebration at Swasey  
169 Parkway on May 16<sup>th</sup> and will have art and events with the kids.

170  
171 iv. Art in the Barn Event (9/26) Update

172  
173 Ms. Murphy noted Michelle Crepau, Beverly Whitehouse, Keith Whitehouse and her are  
174 organizing the event. They have a call for artists open now. With a \$10 deposit they get an  
175 8"x8" canvas to create on and return by June 15<sup>th</sup> and get their \$10 returned when they bring in

176 their work. There will be an open house for the artists and an event in the evening for the  
177 public on September 26<sup>th</sup> for the art show where the artwork can be purchased for \$50 with  
178 100% donated to the Conservation Commission for Rayne’s Barn.

179  
180 v. Standard permit application for the proposed Solid Waste Transfer Station,  
181 ReSource Waste Services of Epping located at 270 Exeter Road in Epping, NH

182  
183 Ms. Murphy noted there was a public information session on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. The Town  
184 provided a letter of concern with the Select Board recommending denial. Information came in  
185 from the Newfields Conservation Commission that there were very likely significant levels of  
186 PFAS contamination on site already and with the topographical highpoint and water running  
187 down to the Piscassic River adding to that doesn’t make sense. Mr. Koff noted the superfund  
188 site adjacent. Chair Short noted the test wells had levels greater than some areas of the  
189 adjacent superfund site. Ms. Murphy read the data, that the monitoring wells exceed 1000  
190 nanograms per liter, higher than some at the superfund site. Chair Short noted never mind the  
191 expansion, there is transportation with 750 tons processed per day, six days per week. Ms.  
192 Murphy noted a truck every four minutes and concerns with each vehicle coming in with  
193 contaminants and/or hazardous waste. Mr. Koff noted the Construction & Demo building is a  
194 different site. Ms. Murphy noted at the public hearing the state stated they are two different  
195 projects and she is concerned they are not being considered holistically, which would pare with  
196 a diminished impact. Mr. Whitehouse recommended viewing the site.

197  
198 Ms. Murphy noted she got a flyer at the Alewife Festival concerning the project and can send it  
199 to the Commission.

200  
201 c. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy, Tree, CC Roundtable)

202  
203 5. Approval of Minutes

204  
205 a. February 10, 2026

206  
207 Mr. Koff recommended edits. Mr. Mattera recommended an edit.

208  
209 MOTION: Chair Short motioned to approve the February 10, 2026 minutes as amended. Mr. Koff  
210 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

211  
212 b. February 26, 2026

213  
214 MOTION: Mr. Madison motioned to approve the February 26, 2026 minutes. Chair Short  
215 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

216  
217 c. April 9, 2026 Site Walk

218

219 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the April 9, 2026 Site Walk minutes. Mr. Madison  
220 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.  
221  
222 d. April 14, 2026  
223  
224 Mr. Mattera recommended edits.  
225  
226 MOTION: Mr. Mattera motioned to approve the April 14, 2026 minutes, as amended. Chair  
227 Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.  
228  
229 e. April 21, 2026 Site Walk (no quorum)  
230  
231 MOTION: Chair Short motioned to approve the April 21, 2026 Site Walk notes. Chair Short  
232 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.  
233  
234 f. April 22, 2026  
235 Mr. Koff recommended edits to lines 13, 26 and 27.  
236  
237 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the April 22, 2026 minutes, as amended. Chair Short  
238 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.  
239  
240 6. Correspondence  
241  
242 7. Next Meeting: 6/9/26, Submission Deadline: 5/29/26  
243  
244 8. Adjournment  
245  
246 ***Chair Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote***  
247 ***was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***  
248  
249 Respectfully submitted,  
250 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary  
251 Via Exeter TV  
252 Webinar ID: 849 3940 8084