

Exeter Conservation Commission
Nowak Room
Town Hall
10 Front Street
May 12, 2026
7:00 PM
Approved 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 19th, 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

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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

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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

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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

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150 i. 4/25 Arbor Day Celebration Event Report

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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 9th Alewife Festival Event Report

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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 16th Birch Tree Celebration

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

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

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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 15th 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 26th 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 28th 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

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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

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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.
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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)
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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.
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234 f. April 22, 2026
235 Mr. Koff recommended edits to lines 13, 26 and 27.
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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.
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240 6. Correspondence
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242 7. Next Meeting: 6/9/26, Submission Deadline: 5/29/26
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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