



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 • FAX 772-4709

www.exeternh.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting

The Exeter Conservation Commission will meet in the Nowak Room, Exeter Town Offices
at 10 Front Street, Exeter on **Tuesday, May 8th, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

Action Items

1. June Trail Race – *Sarah Sallade and Ri Fahnestock*
2. Municipal Technical Assistance Grant Letter of Support – *Dave Sharples*
3. Invasive Plant Management in Henderson Swasey
4. Fall Disc Golf Proposal for Raynes Farm in Collaboration with Parks & Recreation
5. Raynes Farm Draft Event Application Form
6. LCHIP Grant Application Update
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Property Management
 - b. Trails
 - c. Outreach
 - d. CC Representatives Report on Other Committees
8. Approval of Minutes: April 10th Meeting
9. Election of Officers
10. Other Business
11. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (6/12/18), Submission Deadline (6/1/18)

Bill Campbell, Chair

Exeter Conservation Commission

Amended May 5th, 2018 Exeter Town Office, Exeter Public Library, and Town Departments.

**TOWN OF EXETER
PLANNING DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: May 4, 2018
To: Conservation Commission Board Members
From: Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner
Subject: May 8th Conservation Commission Meeting

1. June Trail Race

Your packet has application materials for the annual June race. I recommend this discussion address 3 items

- A. Vote on the event application
- B. Summary of the 3/14 subcommittee meeting to discuss 10 year anniversary celebration
- C. ID of any materials needed for ConCom table at this event

2. MTAG Letter of Support

See memo to the Planning Board from Dave. He is looking for a letter of support from the Commission for a grant application that would assist us in revising our density regulations incentivizing more dense development adjacent to existing development or in re-development areas. Dave will be at the meeting to discuss.

3. Invasive Plant Management in Henderson Swasey

As I will not be at the meeting, I am hoping Carlos, Kris and Mark can provide an update. My email on 5/4 includes notes from the 11/17 walk as well as 4/29.

Based on our walk 4/29 we suggest the following schedule

- 1) Spring 100% coverage of forest openings, marking any invasives with paint
- 2) Summer, re-survey and mark any new invasive plants found.
- 3) Fall, volunteer based removal effort

4. Raynes Farm Disc Golf Proposal

The Raynes Stewardship Committee recommended approval of this Parks and Rec/CC fundraising event. I walked the property with Josh Ciley. We anticipate using the barn for registration and for CC outreach materials. Josh had proposed a 50:50 ticket split or a flat fee for the event. To facilitate advertising, I recommend you take a vote on the event and discuss whether you are supportive of a 50:50 ticket split. It would be helpful to have a subset of people be authorized to work on planning w/ Parks, myself and Josh.

5. Raynes Event Application

Attached you will find a copy of an event application recommended by the RFSC for events at Raynes Farm. I recommend the CC should review for edits and approve it for future use (following incorporation of any modifications recommended).

Exeter Conservation Commission

Event Agreement

NOTE: This agreement is in addition to permits required by the Town of Exeter.

Event Name: *Exeter Trail Race* Event Date: *Saturday June 23, 2018*

Point of Contact: *Sarah Sallade 603 568 2505 sarah.silverberg@gmail.com*

Ri Fahnestock 603 866 1268 gobolder@gmail.com

Estimate of Participants: *150-200*

Event Description: *Trail race for people of all ages and abilities. Held in Henderson-Swasey Forest, starting at the unofficial entrance at the end of Commerce Way, making a figure 8 loop (4.6miles) and then crossing under Rte 101 into Oaklands and back for a total of 10miles. The race has run since 2008, so it now draws people from around New England. We have ongoing permission with S.Heal, Thomas Chamberlin, Robert Elliott, Judith & Lewis Deene, Oaklands Forest Ridge HOA, Jeff Frame, Brian Richards, Mike Curry, The Southeast Landtrust, and the Town of Exeter to use their property as part of the race and always have our COIs on hand during the race.*

Please read, sign and initial below. A copy of the notice of Authorization will be provided to you upon signature by the Conservation Commission and should be in hand on the day of the event.

I, *Sarah Sallade* agree to comply with the following terms for the above referenced event.

- SS Event related activities do not involve private property, unless authorized in writing by landowner, with such permission provided to the Conservation Commission 2 days prior to the event.
- SS Two (2) days prior to the event, the course conditions will be inspected. If trails are wet, the event will be cancelled or re-routed to avoid wet conditions.
- SS The event will be cancelled if rain occurs after the inspection or on the day of the race
- SS All litter will be removed within 24 hours following the event
- SS Inspection of trail conditions will be with the Conservation Commission’s representative prior to and after the event. Trails will be returned to pre-event conditions within 7 days following the event.
- SS A map of the planned route is attached
- SS Trail markings shall be non-permanent
- SS Organizers are responsible for making arrangements for parking at Department of Public Works (if applicable), police and traffic control, and provisions for port-a-potties at their expense.

Date/Time of

Date/Time of

Pre-run Inspection _____

Post-run Inspection _____



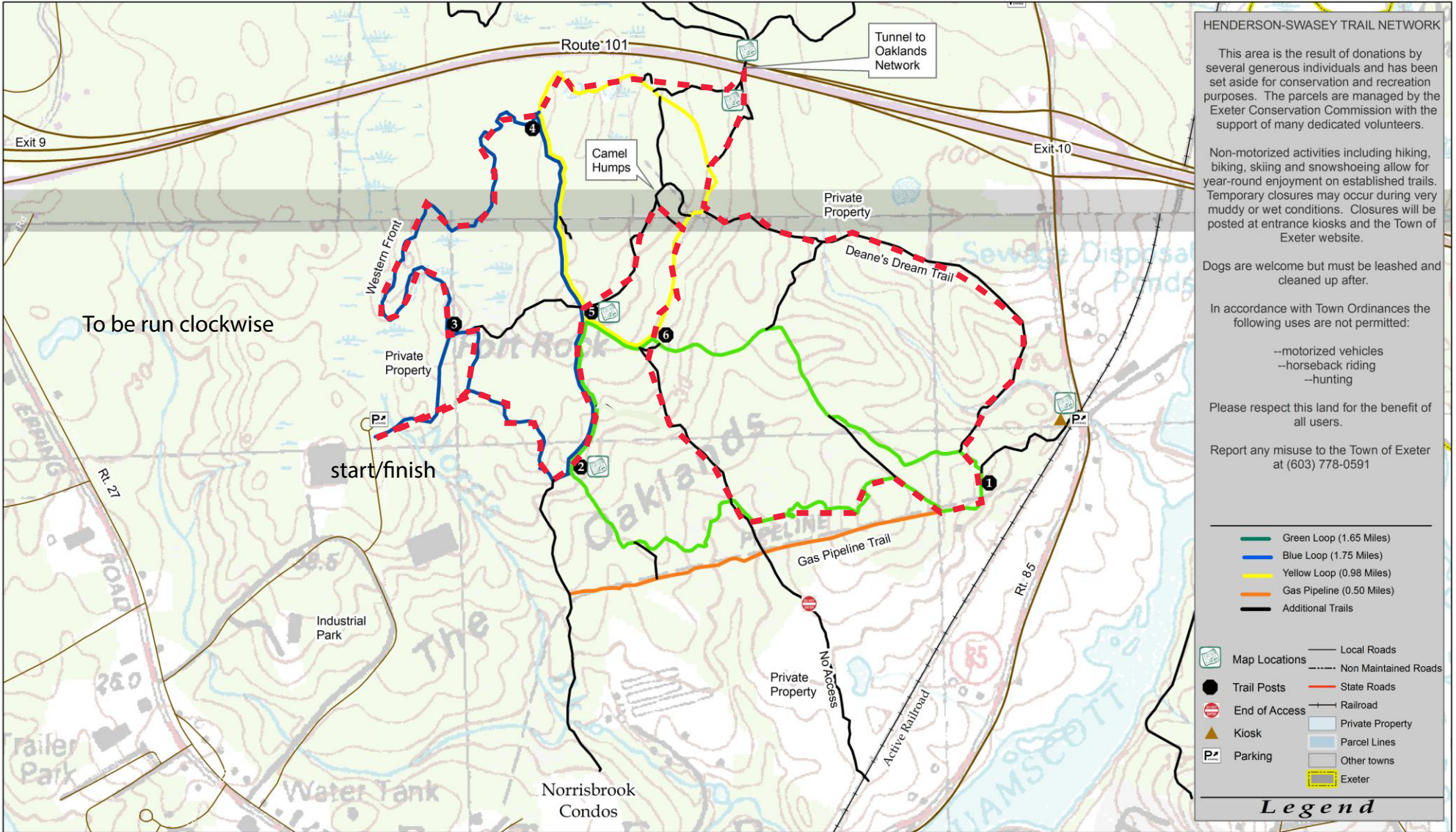
5/2/18

Event Point of Contact

Date

Conservation Commission

Date



HENDERSON-SWASEY TRAIL NETWORK

This area is the result of donations by several generous individuals and has been set aside for conservation and recreation purposes. The parcels are managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission with the support of many dedicated volunteers.

Non-motorized activities including hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoeing allow for year-round enjoyment on established trails. Temporary closures may occur during very muddy or wet conditions. Closures will be posted at entrance kiosks and the Town of Exeter website.

Dogs are welcome but must be leashed and cleaned up after.

In accordance with Town Ordinances the following uses are not permitted:

- motorized vehicles
- horseback riding
- hunting

Please respect this land for the benefit of all users.

Report any misuse to the Town of Exeter at (603) 778-0591

- Green Loop (1.65 Miles)
- Blue Loop (1.75 Miles)
- Yellow Loop (0.98 Miles)
- Gas Pipeline (0.50 Miles)
- Additional Trails

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| | Local Roads |
| | Non Maintained Roads |
| | State Roads |
| | Railroad |
| | Private Property |
| | Parcel Lines |
| | Other towns |
| | Exeter |

Legend

Trail Network
Town of Exeter, NH

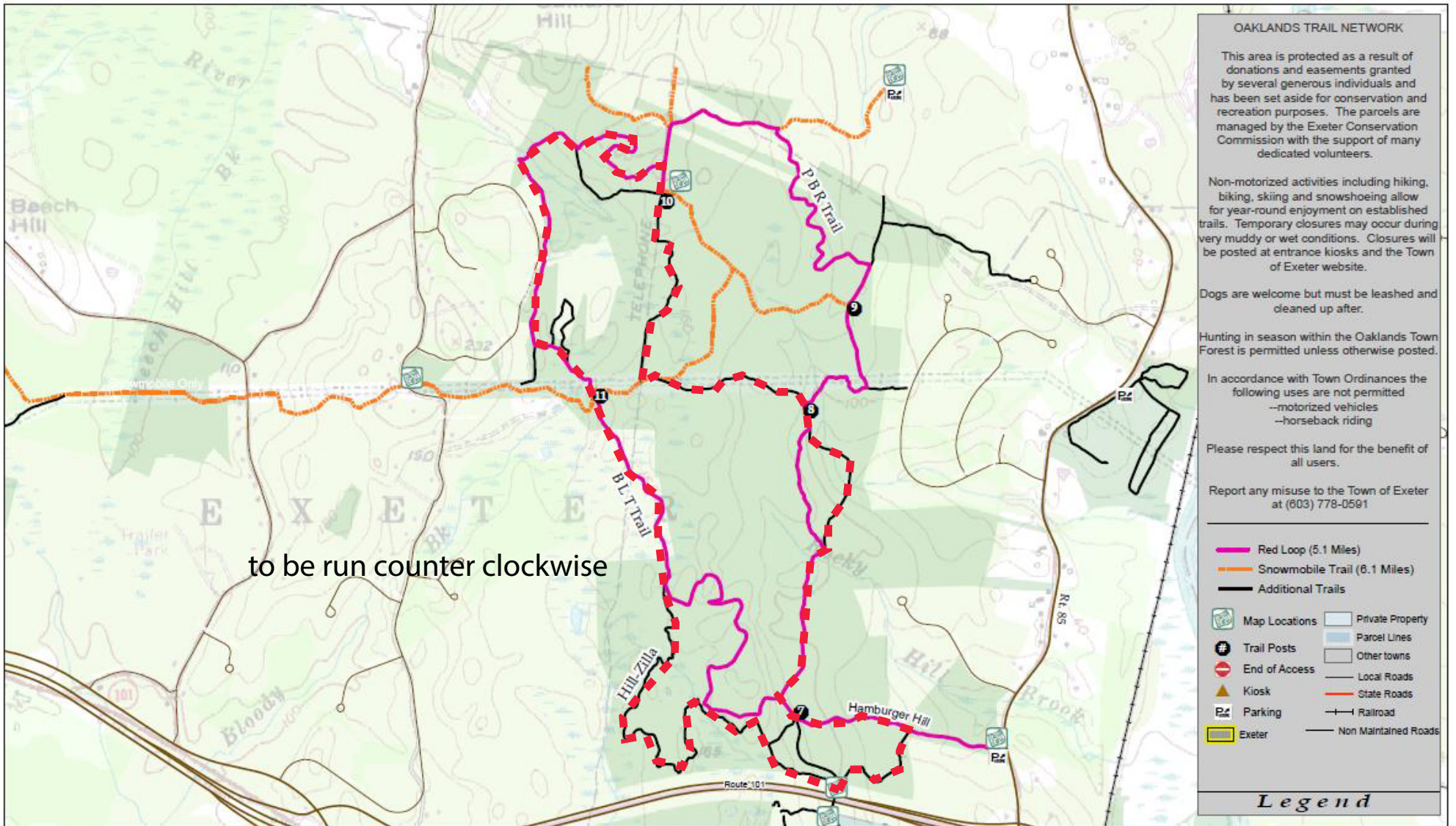


Henderson - Swasey Network



Please note: Some trails cross onto private property. The landowners have allowed the use of the trails, but please respect their property.





to be run counter clockwise

Trail Network
Town of Exeter, NH



Oaklands Network



Please note: Some trails cross onto private property. The landowners have allowed the use of the trails, but please respect their property.





TOWN OF EXETER

Planning and Building Department

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 • FAX 772-4709

www.exeternh.gov

Date: May 3, 2018
To: Planning Board
From: Dave Sharples, Town Planner
Re: Municipal Technical Assistance Grant Letter of Support request

I am writing this memorandum to request that the board provide a letter of support for a Municipal Technical Assistance Grant application I intend to submit on or before June 1, 2018. I have not completed writing the grant application at this time but I have enclosed the application for your review.

If awarded the grant, I intend to hire a consultant to develop a draft proposal to incentivize the creation of affordable housing and infill development through a feature-based Zoning Ordinance. Although not crafted, the general idea of the ordinance would be to allow the Planning Board flexibility in allowing higher density and variations from standard dimensional requirements with a strong focus on good urban design and a high quality street edge connection. In addition to creating a draft ordinance, the consultant would conduct a public outreach campaign to educate and solicit input from the community regarding the project.

This project is consistent with the Action Agenda in our Master Plan. Specifically, the following Master Plan Action Agenda items support this project: Grow: #'s 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a, 4b, 8, 9, and 11. Connect: # 2c. Communicate: #'s 4, 5, and 6.

I wrote this memorandum also to provide you with this information ahead of what I would expect to be a long meeting so you can contact me if you have any questions. If you are so inclined, I would ask for a vote to support this and authorize the Chair to provide a letter of support on the board's behalf.

Thank you.

Enclosure – 1



Moreno Forestry Associates
Skid Trails and Openings from 2016 Harvest
Henderson Swazey Town Forest
Exeter, NH
Map Drawn 12/22/2017

NH Rte 101

Newfields Rd

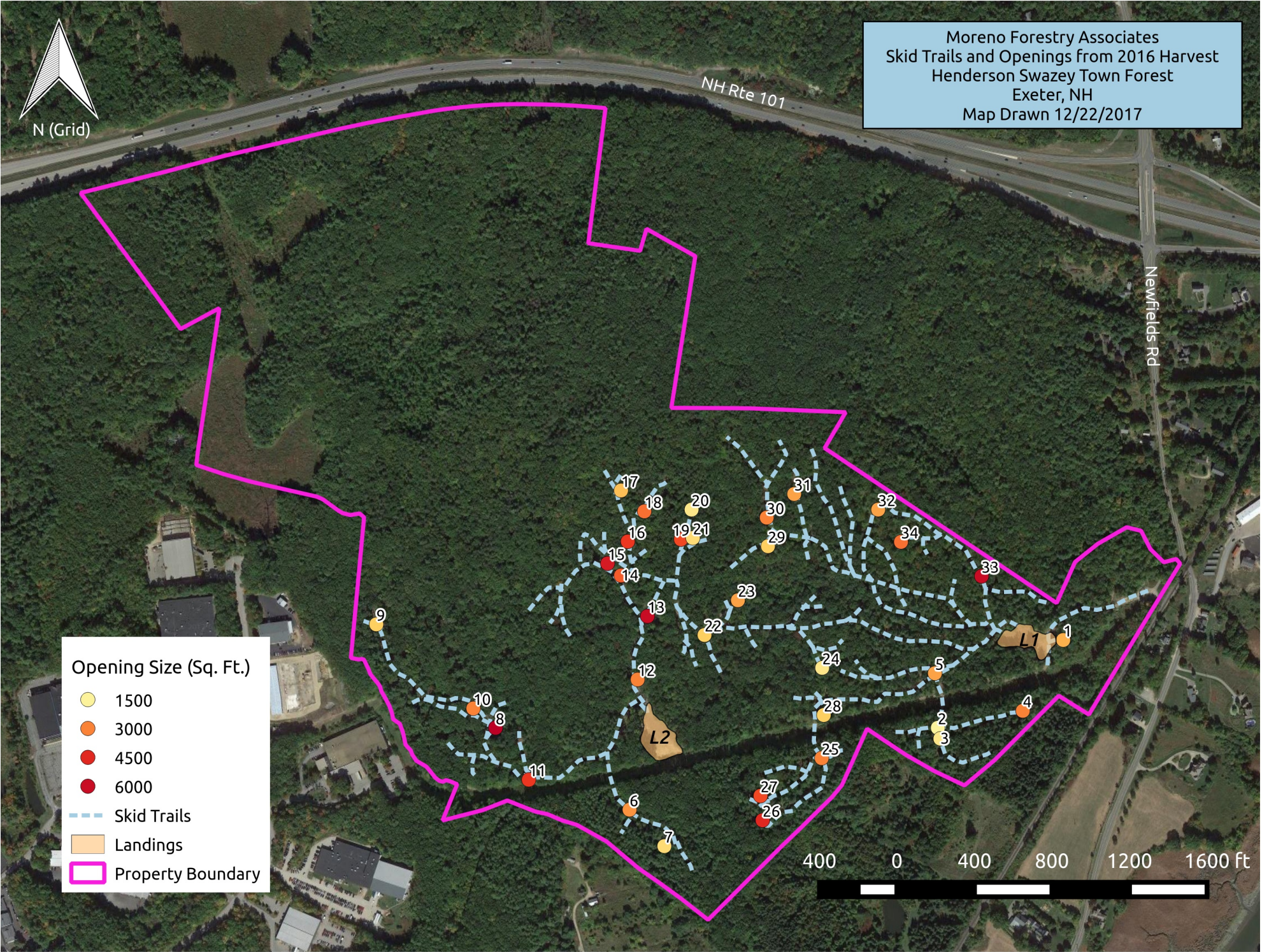
Opening Size (Sq. Ft.)

- 1500
- 3000
- 4500
- 6000

Skid Trails

Landings

Property Boundary



**RAYNES FARM USE APPLICATION
EXETER, NH**

Application is hereby made for the privilege of using Raynes Farm on the following date(s): _____

Hours of _____ to _____. Expected number of participants: _____

Name of Applicant and Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Event Contact Person and phone #: _____

Will electricity be needed? Yes No Barn Access Requested: Yes No

Please describe your event, including any details you feel the Exeter Conservation Commission (ECC) should take into consideration in granting this application:

Parking Plan:

The Certificate of Insurance amounts required are: General Liability/Bodily Injury/Property Damage (combined):
\$300,000-\$1,000,000 with additional personal injury of \$300,000 and the **Town of Exeter listed as an additional insured.**

Restrictions and Permit Fees: See attached Use Regulations and Fees

I have read the attached regulations and fees governing the use of Raynes Farm and pledge that the organization and/or individuals for which this application is intended will faithfully execute those rules and assume total responsibility in connection therewith.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit application and applicable fees to **Exeter Planning Department, 10 Front Street, Exeter, NH**; checks made payable to **Exeter Conservation Commission**
Applications must be received by the meeting deadline. Applicants must be present at the Conservation Commission meeting for the Commission to act on an application.

This application conforms to the use limitations for Raynes Farm and is hereby approved, subject to the exceptions as stated:

Chair, Exeter Conservation Commission: _____ Date: _____

..... (If road detail is required)

Chief of Police: _____ Date: _____

This permit is issued for the purpose indicated and shall be valid only during the times/dates indicated above.

Raynes Farm Use Agreement Regulations

The purpose of these regulations is to assure the safety, enjoyment of the users of Raynes Farm and the preservation of the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of this property. Please initial each of the regulations below to acknowledge your acceptance of terms.

- _____ Any use or activity with more than **10** participants on the property requires an approved Use Agreement from the Exeter Conservation Commission (ECC).
- _____ Events must be timed so as not to interfere with agricultural activities of the property
- _____ Use of the barn by any number of participants requires an approved Use Agreement from the ECC
- _____ Barn access shall be limited to **50** participants or less
- _____ Commercial events are not permitted without Conservation Commission approval
- _____ Each function is required to include an educational component that addresses the agriculture, historic, or natural resources on the property
- _____ Applicants are responsible for a parking plan. Parking is limited to the gravel parking lot unless special conditions exist.
- _____ Applicants are required to contact the Exeter Police Department to determine whether a police detail for traffic control is required.
- _____ Events lasting more than 3 hours are required to provide one portable toilet for every 50 participants
- _____ Applicants are responsible for trash removal during the event.
- _____ Applicants are required to restore the site to pre-existing conditions within 48 hours of the event.
- _____ No smoking \permitted onsite. Events including alcohol must be managed in accordance with State regulation.
- _____ Applications must be submitted to the Exeter Conservation Commission following the meeting submission deadlines found on the Town of Exeter Conservation Commission webpage.
- _____ A portion of the funds generated must be provided to the Commission to supplement the Conservation Fund in support of the property.

Draft Minutes

Conservation Commission

4/10/18

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members

Present at this meeting were Don Clement, Alyson Eberhardt, Dave Short, Sally Ward, Bill Campbell, Virginia Raub, Andrew Koff, Todd Piskovitz, and Kristin Murphy. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Campbell.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Action Items:

1. Fall Disc Golf

Josh Ciley, the owner of Fly By Disc Golf, holds both private and public events with temporary courses. He was at the meeting to seek approval from the commission to use Raynes Farm as a course location. The rules of disc golf are similar to golf and involve throwing a disc towards a basket. The game has almost zero impact to the land. There are 18 holes usually, but it can also include a 9-round junior golf course separate from the main one. His events run from May-October. This event would be in October to coincide with the last haying.

Ms. Murphy said that they had gotten together with Greg Bisson from the parks and recreation department to talk about event ideas for Raynes Farm. This was a good option because it would be a temporary setup. It would be a combined conservation commission and parks/rec event, and could be a fundraiser too.

Mr. Ciley said that last year the weekends would attract about 200 people. The course can accommodate about 72 people at one time spread out over the weekends. Ms. Raub asked if people are able to come and go, and how long the course is. Mr. Ciley said that the course is usually about 2 hours per person to complete. They haven't had to limit people in terms of time yet because they do not usually have surges of people. People usually play in groups of 4, but they can range. The standard fee is \$17 in advance, and \$19 at the event. The company also does special events and corporate outings. All publicity and marketing is handled by the company, mostly through social media but also through print.

The company can do a ticket split or flat rate, as far as the benefit for Raynes Farm. Most partners go with the ticket split. The town would also get publicity about the farm, and the events are professionally photographed. The flat rate is generally more common with private land. They can also do a minimum split to protect from low turnout. Mr. Ciley has walked the property to scope out the land and plan the course. The back would be used as well. Mr. Clement asked about parking and the potential for using shuttles. Ms. Murphy said that the parks/rec van could be used but they have only talked about it conceptually. Mr. Ciley said that if it was publicized, people would be able to plan ahead and they could potentially have some parking on site.

Mr. Short asked if they have tee times set during ticket purchase. Mr. Ciley said it has not been an issue yet, but they can do it if needed. Included in the rental price are disc loaners, and every couple of hours there are instructional lessons. Compared to a frisbee, they are made to have different flight paths depending on the shape of disc. The discs are also custom stamped for the first 75 people.

The commission would like to discuss this with the Raynes Committee, who are meeting on the 19th.

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to recommend the disc golf to the Raynes Stewardship Committee. Ms. Ward seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Committee Reports

a. Property Management

i. Henderson Swasey

Mr. Campbell said that they have an order of seedlings coming and that kids from PEA will help on the 27th to plant them for Climate Action Day. They had to change the order a bit because of availability. There are mostly trees including hazelnut, red pine, dogwood, and birch. It is the “songbird package” and includes smaller shrubs as well. There are about 40 trees to plant and 25 small shrubs. They would like to get wooden stakes, mark them with the name of the plant, and then drive those into the ground to mark where the plants should go. They will also be covered with a cage. The plants will need to be watered after they are planted.

b. Trails

i. Meetings

Mr. Short said that the trails committee identified areas that need maintenance work. On the Southern Green Trail there is a plank bridge that should be rebuilt. There is also a trail near a vernal pool that will need to be corrected to another spot. They are also going to check a beaver dam near Cricket Bridge and will look at getting a “beaver deceiver” installed. Mr. Campbell said that the public is welcome to look at the packet online to see the photos of the maps and the work to be done. There is more work to be done in Henderson-Swasey and the Oaklands.

Mr. Short also said that Mr Campbell talked to somebody at Riverwoods who would like to make signs and would just want the town to pay for the materials. They talked about installing 11 signs. The purpose is to direct people back to where they parked and to have clearer markings at important intersections. The commission recommended using a diamond shape for the number markings instead of rectangular. They had also talked about using lag bolts to secure the signs, so they would be more difficult to vandalize. Ms. Murphy said that including more signs would reduce the need for blazing side trails. They would need to update existing signs and could include QR codes. It also was suggested to include reflectors on the signs to make them easier to see at night.

Mr. Short said he spoke to Mike Cilley about relocating the entrance to trails near his property, because he is concerned about his curbing. They would need a 10-foot bridge to go over a small river. Ms. Murphy said that she is not sure about the required modification of plans through the planning department for that. This would help accessibility and safety, and they can discuss it with Dave Sharples. Mr. Koff also talked about the difficulties for people running during road races in that area. Ms. Murphy said that the traffic patterns will also likely change as the parking lot on Industrial Drive is put in.

c. Outreach

i. Raynes farm

Ms. Murphy said Ms. Richey was interested in leading the Woodcock Walk at Raynes farm, but her schedule filled up. Ms. Raub will be available at the barn with beverages afterwards. They will meet at the parking lot, go to barn for an introduction, then go out to the field. There is a flyer that has been posted on Facebook. It would be a good kid-friendly event. It will be on April 27th, at 7:00PM. Ms. Eberhardt asked if some sort of registration would be appropriate to increase turnout and get contact information for people who are available.

ii. World Fish Migration

NOAA and Fish & Game had these events planned, and they could potentially be sponsored by the commission. There will be two events on the 28th. One is a meeting at Founder's Park for a walking tour of the former dam site (10-11AM). There will also be a casual Q&A session. The second event is the fish ladder tour at the Pickpocket Dam (11:30-12:30PM), where there will be a talk about the function and pros/cons of fish ladder.

iii. Rain Barrel Sale

The Great American Rain Barrel Company now has rain barrels on sale. If you choose Exeter Community Program, you can order by 4/30 and they will be distributed at public works on 5/5 from 9AM-12PM. They are about \$75 for each barrel.

iv. Forest Ridge

Last year, Forest Ridge did an education program about the vernal pools last year, and about what to do when you come across a Blanding's Turtle. This year's event is not limited to Forest Ridge residents. It will be on 5/5 at 2:00PM.

d. CC Representatives

Mr. Campbell talked to Bob Glowacky about his film festival. They are going forward with it and are still in the planning stages. They had talked to the river committee about it too. The potential date would be at the end of May. Donations can be given which could go to the Alewives Festival.

Ms. Raub said that Julie LaBranch talked about the Exeter Water trail at the river meeting. They talked about the watershed grant, and the watershed trail which is an outreach program where they did an interpretive trail of 6 signs which will describe the role of stormwater. Hopefully the trail will be installed by May.

3. Approval of Minutes

On page 2, under outreach, there should be clarification that Julie LaBranch will talk during the river committee meeting. Also, the vernal pool presentation at Forest Ridge will be on May 5th.

MOTION: Ms. Raub moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Piskovitz seconded the motion, and they passed unanimously with Ms. Eberhardt abstaining.

4. Other Business

Ms. Raub brought up the Spring Tree Planting with Peter Waltz, which this year will be on April 28th or 29th at the Lincoln Street School with 5th graders. They need volunteers to help pack the trees in peat moss to hand out to the kids. Ms. Eberhardt said she may be able to help. It was suggested that the seedlings are labeled using stickers.

Ms. Raub also wanted to recognize former conservation commission member Don Briselden, who was recently awarded a leadership award by the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Clement mentioned Greg Bisson's initiative for a recreation advisory board, and that the Selectboard had suggested working with the conservation commission directly and including conservation in the charge. Mr. Piskovitz said that Rose Farm is going to the planning board and will likely come to the conservation commission again. He suggested the commission read the materials available in order to prepare.

Ms. Murphy read a notice from NHACC for membership renewal, which is \$629 for membership dues.

MOTION: Ms. Eberhardt moved to spend \$629 for NHACC membership dues. Mr. Piskovitz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

There was another notice from SELT requesting to renew membership for \$125. The commission had budgeted \$100 for the membership.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to expend \$100 to renew the commission's SELT membership. Mr. Koff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

They also received copies of Rockingham Conservation Districts reports and their services. Ms. Eberhardt suggested that the commission look at the external review service because other commissions have found it valuable. The board can recommend it to the planning board. They also received a letter from Echo Action about concerns over the Liberty Utilities gasline project. They are looking for the commissions support in joining their concerns. The gasline will go along Route 101 and underneath the river into Stratham and will include a substation.

5. Next Meeting- 5/18/18

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM. Ms. Eberhardt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.