



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, April 9th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present, New Select Board Rep
2. Public Comment

Action Items

1. Sustainability Office Advocates Update
2. Appointment Renewals & Officer Term Reminder
3. Dues for NHACC, SELT (Funding request)
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Planning and Property Management
 - i. SCA Invasive Plant Management Opportunity (Funding Request)
 - ii. Community Garden Update
 - iii. Conservation & Economy/Downtowns & Trails Program
 - iv. Mitigation Project Update, Conservation Roundtable 4/23
 - v. Annual Planning Dashboard
 - vi. Property Monitoring
 - vii. Intern Planning
 - b. Trails
 - i. Trail Marking Update and Draft Kiosks for Henderson Swasey
 - ii. Gift for Sign Construction (Funding Request)
 - c. Outreach Events
 - i. Raynes Events- Easter Story Hour 4/13, Woodcock Walk 4/22, RFSC meeting 4/17, Bat Presentation/House Making 5/7 (Funding Request), Raynes Farm Parking Lot Sign Concept (Funding request)
 - ii. SST/ECC Partnership: Morrissette Clean Up 4/19
 - iii. PEA Climate Action Day: 4/26 (Bill)
 - iv. Raynes Spring Tree 4/30 8:45 – 10:30, packing 4/27
 - v. Rain Barrel Orders through 5/5. Delivery 5/11
 - vi. Coop Middle School Project 5/21 or 5/22 and 6/4 or 6/5
5. Approval of Minutes: March 13th Meeting
6. Correspondence
7. Other Business
8. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (5/14/19), Submission Deadline 5/3/19)

Non-public Session

Non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (d) for the consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property

Bill Campbell, Chair

Exeter Conservation Commission

Posted April 5th, 2019 Exeter Town Office, Exeter Public Library, and Town Departments.

**TOWN OF EXETER
PLANNING DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 5, 2019
To: Conservation Commission Board Members
From: Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner
Subject: April 9th Conservation Commission Meeting

Below are summaries of agenda items that have a variety of dates to keep in mind or funding requests. I think the rest of the items either are self-explanatory.

Appointment Renewals & Officer Term Reminder

Carlos, Drew, and Lindsey you should have received a renewal option from Sheri Riffle. Please contact me if you have not received this. Also the current slate of officers is Chair: Campbell, V. Chair: Guindon, Treasurer: Koff, Clerk: Piskovitz. Bill will officially call for a vote of renewal/replacements in May so it may be a good time to start thinking about whether people wish to continue in their roles, if others are interested in new opportunities, etc.

Dues

Suggested Motion:

_____ *Move to approve NHACC \$700, SELT \$125, from the CC's Dues town budget allocation.*

SCA Invasive Work

SCA offers 5 day assistance, 6-7 crew members and a staff leader for \$5,250 + port-o-potty rental/camping site. Rate covers crew's service, transportation, and tools. Partners are responsible for all project material costs. Crews are trained in general plant and tree ID. We'd have to train invasive ID. CC or I do not need to be present throughout the project, but at beginning and a check in throughout, and availability by phone. See flyer for what they provide and what they expect from partners. Ideally hoping to schedule in August to meet Bill and Carlos' schedules. If you are supportive, we have \$12,679.02 from logging for invasive treatment.

Suggested Motion:

_____ *Move to approve \$5,250 from the CC's Forestry Account.*

Community Garden Update:

As you know we have been exploring Gilman Park as a Community Garden location. Proposing a 120'x75' fenced area (wood and 2"x4" mesh), containing 20, 20x4' beds. Property has an easement so garden requires SELT approval. Obtained support from Gilman Park trustees. Presented concept to SB on 3/25 and they voted in support of submitting official request to SELT. Proposal will go before SELT committee June 11th, then to their Board later June (or if that meeting doesn't happen July 18th). Assuming it is approved by SELT, they would then send a letter to the AG's office and should hear back from them within 30 days. We have been able to ID partners for bed construction (SST), have offers for volunteer time from Yeti Landcare, and may be able to bring in support from scouts. It would be good to get a committee together to refine the requirements/agreement documents, confirm bed sizes, and work out any other logistics. Estimated costs (assuming partnerships) is \$12k. We would need to secure funding (some grants available), and ideally be ready to go for construction in late fall/early spring.

Conservation Economy Workshop

See packet for materials. Please take a look at the Downtowns & Trails Program. I think it would be a great project for Exeter. It is a 6 month program where Coop Ext will come facilitate a task force, train volunteers on data collection about downtown and trail users, and then analyze the data to develop action items we can take to promote our trails and encourage trail users to visit businesses in town. The program costs \$3,000. It would include a big role for the Commission and help to build a econ dev partnership. If the CC is supportive, I would love to find funds through grants or add this as a request to the budget in 2020 either through CC or Planning.

Property Monitoring

Each CC member has committed to monitor a property in town. For new members, we should meet or chat about what parcels you would like you take on and how to team you either with myself or a CC member to get you trained up on process.

Intern Planning

Seeking individuals interested in reviewing job descriptions, participating in interviews, providing support in field if desired.



SCA New Hampshire AmeriCorps Conservation Crew Info Guide



SCA NH AmeriCorps Overview

The SCA NH AmeriCorps program originated in 1994 at Monadnock State Park. The next year it moved to Bear Brook State Park in Allentown, NH where we are still based today. We serve land management agencies and communities throughout New Hampshire to complete vital conservation and resource protection projects. We provide skilled and motivated crews of 6-7 members that work 11-day hitches in the field (10 work days, 1 day off).

What We Provide

Pre-Hitch

- Conservation Coordinator assists with:
 - Project planning & design
 - Construction design plans
 - Technical recommendations
 - Material selection
 - Volunteer coordination
- Preliminary site visit
- Crew trainings and preparation
- Upon request, arrangement of ordering & delivery of project materials

On Hitch

- One crew of 5-7 trained members
- Conservation Coordinator & Crew Supervisor support including:
 - Project oversight & supervision
 - Project-specific training & risk management
- 24 Hour emergency response system
- Tools & Equipment required to complete the agreed upon project including: vehicles, field tools, food & camp equipment
- Complete liability and worker's compensation insurance coverage for the SCA crew and staff
- SCA administrative support

Post-Hitch

- Evaluation Report detailing the crew's service and performance
- Invitation to annual Member Recognition Ceremony in October

Conservation Skills Training

Our crews are trained and supervised to complete high-priority, technically advanced, conservation projects. In order to serve our partners effectively, crews receive the trainings listed below, as well as custom trainings tailored to prepare crews for project-specific needs.

- Rustic Timber Construction (bridges, steps, walls, etc.)
- Stone Construction (steps, walls, water bars, etc.)
- Griphoist & Rigging Systems
- Trail Survey, Design, & Construction
- Habitat Restoration & Re-Vegetation Techniques
- Leadership Training
- Basic Carpentry (bridges, boardwalks, shelters, etc.)
- Chainsaw Certification through Northeast Woodland Training
- General Trail & Corridor Maintenance
- Erosion Control & Flood Restoration
- Wilderness First Responder & CPR
- Leave No Trace & Backcountry Camping



What Agencies & Partner Organizations Provide

Pre-Project

- Appropriate projects on lands open to the public (see details below)
- Specification of desired project outcomes
- Camping area or housing for the crew including access to water and bathroom accommodations
- Complete Service Agreement for services provided by SCA
- Obtain proper permits if required
- Selection, purchasing and delivery of materials/resources

On Hitch

- Communication with crew and staff
- On-site project assistance if desired
- Opportunities for volunteer engagement (if applicable) – maximum of 1 day within a 10-day hitch

Post-Hitch

- Provide an evaluation of crew performance and outcomes per AmeriCorps standards

Project Selection Process

Requests are reviewed and approved by SCA staff to ensure suitability for crews. In order to fully utilize training and expertise of the SCA NH crews and to provide the best possible service to partners, projects will be prioritized according to the following criteria:

- **Clear Conservation Value:** The project should directly benefit the land, wildlife, and/or general public.
- **Safety:** Projects will be prioritized based on how safe they will be to complete and the ability to mitigate risks.
- **Technically Demanding & Labor Intensive:** SCA NH members are highly trained and should be utilized for projects that seasonal staff or volunteers are not trained for, or do not have time to complete.
- **Educational Value:** SCA NH AmeriCorps crews are made up of young adult volunteers choosing to serve in New Hampshire to gain work and life experience in the conservation field. Projects should be interesting, varied, and mutually beneficial for sponsors and SCA NH AmeriCorps members.

Examples of Appropriate Conservation Season Projects:		Inappropriate Projects:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber bridge & boardwalk construction • Rock staircase construction • Retaining walls • Restoration and plantings • Historical preservation • Remote campsite restoration, maintenance, or expansion • Invasive plant species removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter construction & repair • Erosion control • New trail construction • Flood restoration • Trail brushing • Blowdown & tree removal • Research & monitoring • Many more project options! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized heavy equipment operation • Mowing • Poison Ivy removal • Graffiti removal • Janitorial work • Hazardous waste removal • Road work



Extension



Nature & Economy

Recognizing and Leveraging Natural Assets for Economic Vibrancy

Thursday March 14, 2019

9:00 AM—12:00 PM

New Hampshire Audubon

84 Silk Farm Road, Concord NH

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Welcome and Introductions. Please share your name, where you are from, and your interest in attending this workshop
9:15 AM	Overview of natural capital and nature based economic development
10:00 AM	Interactive worksheet—sketch out your community's natural assets in relationship to its economic center. Share within your group.
10:45 AM-11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM-11:50 AM	Examples of regional case studies, brainstorming next steps for your communities
11:50 AM-12:00 PM	Wrap up and evaluation card

Learning Objectives

- Understanding "Natural Capital" is everywhere but not always easy to recognize
- Analyze how communities are taking advantage of natural capital for economic vibrancy
- Categorize the specific ways communities leverage natural capital - for tourism, recreation, quality of life, avoided costs of community services
- Discuss how the benefits of natural capital should be made available for everyone.

This workshop is led by Shannon Rogers, Ph.D Nature Based Economic Development Specialist & Associate Extension Professor, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

Shannon.rogers@unh.edu

<https://extension.unh.edu/programs/nature-economy>



Downtowns & Trails

Our Downtowns & Trails program supports communities looking to connect their trails with downtown economic development goals. During a 6-month process, we help communities form a task force, train volunteers to collect data about their downtown and trail users (residents & visitors) and then we analyze the data to help communities move toward action.

To learn more about Downtowns & Trails, visit:

<http://bit.ly/2HTsGWu>

Or for more information, contact:

Shannon.Rogers@unh.edu

Nature Economy

The Economic Benefits of Trails

Written by Shannon Rogers, Nature Based Economic Development State Specialist

Fact Sheet #1

December 2018

Nature Economy: An Overview

New Hampshire's natural resources are some of the state's greatest assets. Our New Hampshire economy grows when our forests, trails, waters, are well taken care of, used by residents and visitors and linked to our downtowns. More than 80 community-visioning processes conducted by UNH Cooperative Extension in New Hampshire over the past 20 years identified that over half of all towns indicated that they're not leveraging their trails and natural amenities to foster vibrant communities. In response, many communities have formed volunteer trail committees, and are making efforts to map and publicize their trails. The following fact sheet is the first in a series about the nature economy. In this one we share an overview on the economic benefits of trails.

Nature Economy



Quality of Life



Economic Development



- Tourism
- Business Retention
- Cost of Community Services/Risk Reduction
- Recreation
- Resilient Communities
- Health & Wellness

Trails and natural spaces provide us with many benefits and services. Some of which are quantifiable (such as spending on recreation) and others, such as water purification and flood control as well as cultural and spiritual benefits, are less easily quantified but nonetheless important. These "ecosystem services," are essentially benefits humans receive from nature, and contribute to community well being and quality of life. As shown above, there are many aspects of nature that contribute to economic well being and quality of life. In this fact sheet we focus on the recreation and tourism benefits trails can provide.

The Outdoor Industry Association (2017) reports the following economic impact of the outdoor recreation economy in the U.S.



Accounts for \$887 billion in annual U.S. consumer spending



Generates \$124.5 billion in annual federal, state and local tax revenue



According to U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the outdoor recreation economy grew 3.8 percent in 2016 in comparison to the overall U.S. economy's 2.8 percent growth. BEA estimates that outdoor recreation accounted for 2 percent of the overall U.S. Gross Domestic Product in 2016, contributing \$373.7 billion to the economy (BEA, 2018).



Supports nearly 7.6 million jobs across the U.S.



Adds \$524.8 billion in active outdoor recreation trip and travel

Vermont's Recreation Economy: A Case Study

Regionally, in the state of Vermont, a recent study of the Mad River Valley emphasized the importance of trail tourism, specifically in terms of mountain biking (SE Group, 2014). Further, the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (2016) examined four trail networks in the state, estimating that these networks alone generated nearly \$30 million in economic impact from out-of-state visitors. Trail tourism is particularly beneficial for economic impact when it attracts non-local visitors. Kingdom Trails, one of the four trail networks examined in the Vermont Trails and Greenways study, is a prime example of destination trail tourism. Local trail users and non-local visitors alike visit businesses including restaurants, breweries, coffee shops, ice cream shops, etc. and non-local visitors further support the economy through use of overnight accommodations.



Trails Drive Local Economies in NH

The NH Bureau of Trails includes more than 1,200 miles of wheeled OHRV trails, over 300 miles of state owned rail trails, and over 7,000 miles of snowmobile trails (NH Trails Bureau, 2018). Further, volunteer organizations manage more than 4,000 miles of hiking trails in the state (NH State Parks, 2018). Special interest organizations also have their own estimates of certain types of trails, for example the Rails to Trails Conservancy reports that NH currently has 75 total rail trails which encompass 558 miles (Rails to Trails Conservancy, 2018).

In-Town Trails

Beyond recreation benefits, research has shown that homes near trails also command higher property values; the presence of trails can attract new residents to move to or stay in a location; and trails also encourage physical fitness. Trails that are located closer to towns can be used as alternative forms of transportation. In-Town Trails, such as historic pathways, walking tours, riverwalks, and community trails have great potential for connecting with and enhancing economic activity in Main Street businesses because they are more easily accessible for a greater diversity of community members.

Bicycle Trails

There are many studies that show the economic impact of cycling and cycling infrastructure, such as bike paths and rail trails. Studies have found that:

- People who ride bikes make purchases when they are out riding and are more likely to make multiple or repeat trips to local stores
- Bicycling tourism brings millions of dollars to cities and towns across the country
- Bike accessible business districts benefit from catering to cyclists as customers

(League of American Bicyclists)



Strengthening Economy Through Nature

UNH Extension's Community & Economic Development Team aims to help communities connect natural assets with community goals to create vibrant economies and high quality of life for all. This can be in the form of assisting communities in identifying and utilizing their natural capital, such as connecting their downtowns with trails and leveraging green infrastructure to reduce or maintain costs of community services.

For more Nature Economy news and programs, please visit:

extension.unh.edu/programs/nature-economy

Sources & Resources

[National Recreation Economic Impact Data](#)

[NH Trails Bureau](#)

[Headwaters Economics Trail Study Database](#)

[Rails to Trails Conservancy](#)

<https://headwaterseconomics.org/trail/>



For more information on our programming and technical assistance in this area, please contact Shannon Rogers, Nature Based Economic Development Specialist shannon.rogers@unh.edu

Nature Economy Values of Freshwater Recreation in NH

Written by Shannon Rogers, Nature Based Economic Development State Specialist with
Alison Watts, Research Assistant Professor, UNH Civil & Environmental Engineering

Fact Sheet #2

January 2019

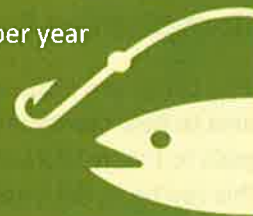
Introduction

New Hampshire's freshwater resources provide numerous values to both residents and visitors. New Hampshire has over 1,000 Lakes and 10,000 miles of rivers and streams that are part of New Hampshire's impressive "nature economy." Tourism is a large part of New Hampshire's economy and our water resources are one of the main attractions that bring visitors to our State. In 2017, visitors to NH spent over \$5 billion dollars at New Hampshire destinations. Recreation is also a part of the high quality of life residents of NH enjoy. In the following analysis, that was completed as part of larger study on the values and costs of New Hampshire's water resources with NH Lives on Water, we show select economic benefit of three types of freshwater recreation: swimming, boating, and fishing.



Key Findings:

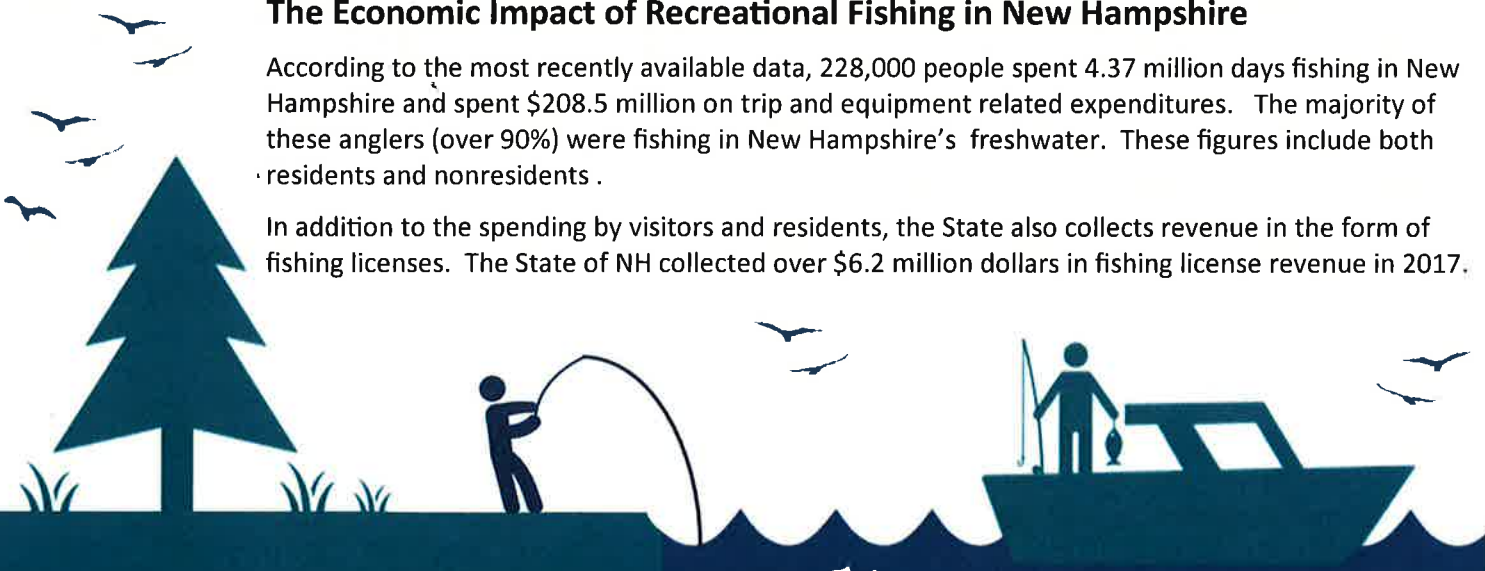
- The economic impact of recreational fishing in New Hampshire is approximately \$215 million dollars per year
- The economic impact of visitors who came to swim in New Hampshire's freshwater state parks during the summer of 2017 is approximately \$40 million dollars
- The economic impact of non-NH registered boaters visiting New Hampshire in 2017 is estimated at over \$100 million dollars



The Economic Impact of Recreational Fishing in New Hampshire

According to the most recently available data, 228,000 people spent 4.37 million days fishing in New Hampshire and spent \$208.5 million on trip and equipment related expenditures. The majority of these anglers (over 90%) were fishing in New Hampshire's freshwater. These figures include both residents and nonresidents.

In addition to the spending by visitors and residents, the State also collects revenue in the form of fishing licenses. The State of NH collected over \$6.2 million dollars in fishing license revenue in 2017.



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228,000 anglers spent **4.37** million days fishing in New Hampshire and spent **\$208.5** million on trip and equipment related expenditures

Economic Impacts of Swimming by Visitors to New Hampshire's Freshwater State Parks



New Hampshire's state parks provide access to freshwater resources, especially for swimming. We were able to obtain a data set of visitors to freshwater state parks in New Hampshire for June, July, and August 2017 from the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation that showed a total of 323,285 cars coming to state parks with freshwater swimming. In order to estimate the total number of people visiting the parks from out of state, we used a recent "license plate survey" that showed an average of three people visit per car and that 45% of cars are from out of state. Thus, we calculated 436,434 out of state visitor days at state parks with freshwater swimming. Using a common economic impact modeling tool, IMPLAN, we calculate an output of \$41 million dollars and 384 jobs results from that estimate.

Economic Impact of Non-NH Registered Boaters in New Hampshire

19,945 non-New Hampshire boats were registered in the state in 2017. This does not count smaller watercraft, under 12 feet. National Marine Manufacturers' data suggests that boat owners spend an average of 28 days per year on the water. This suggests 558,460 boating days. Finally, we use the research supported assumption that an average of two people are on a boat at any one time, resulting in a total of 1,116,920 visitor days. This is a conservative estimate and does not capture any boating for crafts under the size of 12 feet nor does it include paddlecraft. Data does not exist on these types of boats in the State. Additionally, not all non-NH boaters register their boats with New Hampshire's Department of Motor Vehicles.

Using the State's spending profile for overnight tourist visits and 1.16 million visitor days, we calculated an economic impact of \$104 million dollars and almost 1,000 jobs.

Strengthening Economy Through Nature

UNH Extension's Community & Economic Development Team aims to help communities connect natural assets with community goals to create vibrant economies and high quality of life for all. This can be in the form of assisting communities in identifying and utilizing their natural capital, such as connecting their downtowns with trails and leveraging green infrastructure to reduce or maintain costs of community services.



For more Nature Economy news and programs, please visit: extension.unh.edu/programs/nature-economy

Opportunities for Future Research

We are grateful for the existing data that was used in this research. We did learn that there were some data gaps, especially around the types of recreation New Hampshire residents and visitors participate in as well as how they spend their money on recreation and associated services.

Sources & Resources

2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation. US Fish & Wildlife Service & US Census Bureau

2017 NH Fishing License Sales. Jason Smith

2014 NH Water & Watersheds Survey. Shannon Rogers & Jill Farrell

NH Department of Safety Division of Motor Vehicles

NH Travel and Tourism

2019 What Is Our Water Worth and What Does Our Water Cost? (DRAFT Report). Alison Watts & Shannon Rogers.

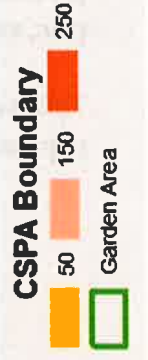
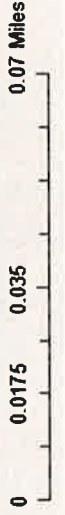
For more information on the NH Lives on Water Partnership, please contact Tom O'Brien tobrien@nhlakes.org

For more information on our programming and technical assistance in this area, please contact Shannon Rogers, Nature Based Economic Development Specialist, shannon.rogers@unh.edu

Attachment A. Aerial Image



Gilman Park



Listing of properties in need of monitoring

The following is a list of lands that the Town either owns or has a Conservation easement on the parcel. In cases of easements, the owner of the land should be contacted before monitoring the land. Kristen has the contact information as well as maps and any other information.

1. Allen Street Woodland Park and Starry Brook

Allen Street is a 9-acre parcel bordered by homes on Allen Street on the south, some commercial property on the east and the Swampscott River on the west. It was acquired by the Town with partial help from the residents of Allen Street. There are three entry ways to the parcel from Allen Street. The one at the end of Allen Street is probably the easiest to access, although the other two should be checked out. On this entry way, there is a part of a shed that we have allowed. There is a trail on the property which should be walked. The boundary on the east and south should also be checked for violations.

2. Dolloff Easement and FGS land. **CARLOS GUINDON**

The Dolloff Easement consists of two parts, a 2-acre lot on Brentwood Road opposite the Dolloff home and an 83-acre portion on the other side of Brentwood Road in what is called The Little River Conservation area.

The 2-acre parcel has an exclusion for the Dolloff's to use the lot for a garden. We have the right to park there, the general area for that is to the left as you drive in.

The larger area can be accessed by walking down the Dolloff's driveway to the right of their house. About 200 yards in, one will pick up the trail which leads down to Dudley Brook and the site of an old mill. One should then walk the trails and the boundaries, particularly those which bound residential areas.

On the map, one will see where the FGS land abuts the Dolloff land. The 12 acres should be easily monitored along with Dolloff.

3. Exeter Country Club, Irvine Conservation Area and Irvine-Hayes Marsh **ALYSON EBERHARDT**

The Country Club has a conservation easement on it. It is good to monitor this property along with someone from the Club, usually the groundskeeper. The Irvine land can be reached by going down the road to the maintenance house and closing the fairway to get to the property. The marsh is just to the north of the Irvine area and is largely inaccessible.

4. Joseph and Nellie Swasey Conservation Easement. **To Be Assigned...**

This easement can be accessed at a point at the end of Greenleaf Drive. This property is posted against hunting and thus, some signs may need replacement. Taking some "No Hunting" signs, some aluminum nails and a hammer, in addition to a bucket or small stepladder might be taken along. There is no official trail on the property, so walking the boundary is the most likely task.

5. Morrissette Property **GINNY RAUB**

This property has recently acquired a kiosk which is easily accessed by the bridge over Little River from the back of the SST parking lot. The trail that goes from Linden Street, past the kiosk to the skateboard park should be walked. In addition the boundary along the east side (parallel to Court Street) and the south (parallel to Gary Lane) , should be walked with a particular eye for encroachments.

6. Linden Commons

To Be Assigned.....

This property runs on the south side of the Little River between the railroad track and Linden Street. There is also an additional portion of the land on the north side of the river adjacent to the cemetery. This property is best monitored via the trail network that runs from Linden Street west to the RR with a smaller trail heading south toward the development. This portion of the trail meets the development at a site established for composting grass clippings. It is helpful to check to be sure this area is regularly mowed to encourage use by the residents.

7. McDonnell Property

TODD PISKOVITZ

The McDonnell easement can be accessed off Linden Street from the parking lot just north of the Exeter River, opposite the Exeter Landing Manufactured Home Park.

8. Raynes Land along with Lee/Diller/Renewable Resources/Thomas Lands

SALLY WARD

The Raynes farm parking lot is accessed from Newfield's road. The boundaries should be walked, along with the trail that goes through the wooded area in the northern part of the property. The three smaller pieces, the Lee/Diller, Renewable Resources and the Thomas lands are located to the North of the Raynes land, along the Swampscott. Walk along the eastern side of the railroad tracks to access these lands.

9. Henderson Swasey Town Forest

DAVE SHORT

This property can be accessed either through the parking area off Newfield's Road and through the C3i parking lot off of Industrial Drive. This is a large area, but in need of both boundary walking and trail walking. In particular, the Deene trail, which runs off the Town forest land onto the Churchill Property, is on private property. Not everyone is aware of this, and we need to be particularly aware of any transgressions on this land. This also includes the entrance to the tunnel under Route 101.

10. 80 Epping Road - DREW KOFF

11. Smith Page - BILL C

12. Field: 41.8 Acres off of Dogtown Road. Abuts the back side of the parkign lot for Little River Conservation Area- To Be Assigned

13. Hanson: 34 Acres of mostly hayfield bordered by the Exeter River off of Powdermill Road - To Be Assigned

14. Windemere - 8.6 Acres off of Windemere Ln (High Street) that abuts Dearborn Brook -- To Be Assigned



Henderson Swasey Town Forest

Scan Code For
A Copy Of
This And Other
Trail Maps



Natural Resources

The Henderson-Swasey Town Forest is a 220-acre area of conservation lands managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission. The property was originally conserved in the 1970s with additional parcels added over the years. In 1991, by vote of the residents of Exeter, the land was officially designated as a Town Forest, giving it special allowances under NH Revised Statutes 31:112. The forest spans the area south of Route 101 between Commerce Drive and Newfields Road (Rte. 85) near the rail-road trestle underpass. Several trails cross onto private property and rely on permission from the landowners.

The large unfragmented block of deciduous and conifer forests is important for wildlife diversity, quality habitat and movement corridors. This makes it an excellent spot for viewing wildlife including including beavers, deer, coyote, fox, rodents, reptiles and amphibians and many bird species. The land is characterized by numerous boulder and ledge outcrops, hummocky terrain, and a number of vernal pools and wetlands.

Trail Information

The area has a well-established trail system that provides a number of outdoor opportunities, including cross-country skiing, running and jogging, hiking, orienteering and mountain biking. The trail connects to the Oaklands Town Forest trail network to the north through a large culvert that runs beneath Route 101. Though the main trailhead is west of Newfields Road, several other access points exist on private lands including: via the Commerce Way cul-de-sac off of Industrial Drive and behind the Norris Brook Condominiums.

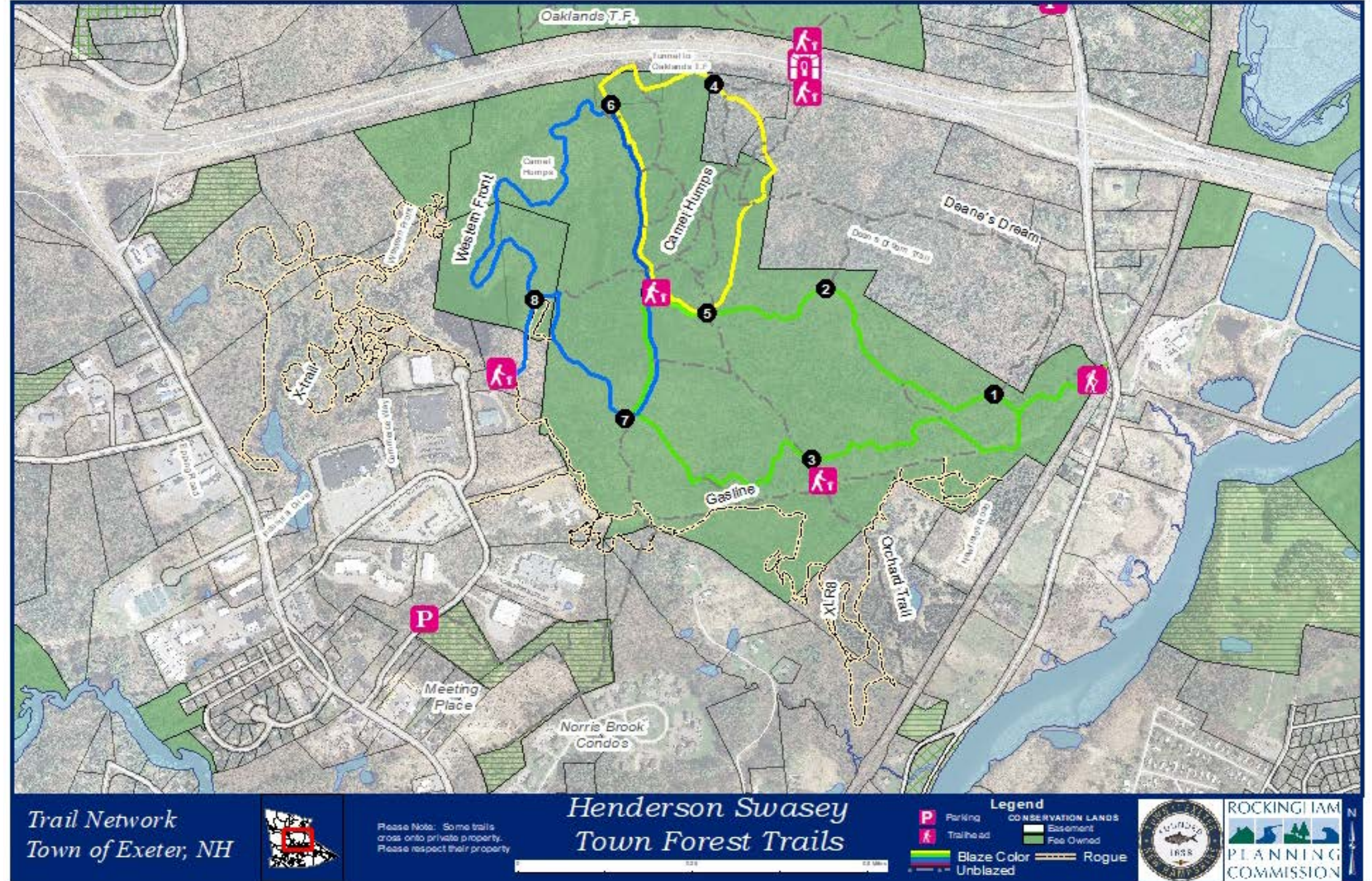
Temporary closures may occur during very muddy or wet conditions. Closures will be posted at entrance kiosks and the Town of Exeter website. Private landowners have the right to limit access. Please respect closures for the benefit of all users. Forestry management is guided by a long term forest management plan which includes occasional selective harvesting.

Compatible Uses

The property is open year round for passive recreation such as hiking, wildlife viewing, biking, and winter snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Leashed dogs under their owners control are permitted. As a courtesy to others and out of respect to your trail system, please carry-in-carry out all trash and clean up dog waste.

Hunting is not permitted on this property, but visitors connecting to the Oaklands Town Forest should be aware that hunting is permitted there.



First Time to Our Trails?

This is a complex network of trails. Only our colored trails have painted blazes, with double blazes indicating direction changes. Though we attempt to keep blazes maintained, a forest is a dynamic system and markers may or may not always be visible. Always follow safe hiking standards, let others know your hike plan, be adequately dressed and carry food and water, be aware of sunset times, pay attention to your surroundings, weather and trail conditions. Staying safe is YOUR responsibility.

Compatible Uses:

- Hiking
- Snowshoeing/XC Skiing
- Wildlife Viewing
- Other passive recreation
- Hunting is NOT permitted

Distances:

- 1.65 mi. Green Loop
- 1.75 mi. Blue Loop
- 0.98 mi. Yellow Loop
- 0.50 mi. Gas Pipeline



YOU ARE
HERE



REMEMBER
Please take only pictures
and leave only footprints.



Exeter Conservation Commission
March 13th, 2019, 7 PM
Town Offices Nowak Room
Draft Minutes

Call To Order

1. Introduction of Members Present

Present at tonight's meeting were Bill Campbell, Ginny Raub, Sally Ward, Todd Piskovitz, Lindsey White, Dave Short, Andrew Koff, Trevor Mattera, Ann Surman, and Kristen Murphy. Alyson Eberhardt, Carlos Guindon, Lucretia Ganley, and Andy Weeks were not present. Ginny Raub and Lindsey White will be voting. Mr. Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Action items

1. Review of a Wetland Waiver and Shoreland CUP from Palmer & Sicard Inc., for a 26,989 SF Office/Warehouse on Holland Way (Tax Map 66-1, Planning Board Case 18-22) Luke Hurley, GES Inc., Christian Smith, Beals Assoc., Mark Hodston, Palmer & Sicard.)

Christian Smith, an engineer with Beals Associates, spoke about the Waiver and CUP application for this project. Mr. Smith mentioned that during a sitewalk last week, the Commission had asked if the project can use pervious pavement. He found that this was acceptable BMP with the AOT Bureau, but with large trucks turning on this site he felt it was not a good idea. Since pervious pavement clogs when sanded, they would have to use too much ice melt to make it safe for vehicular traffic. The entirety of pavement and the roof drains into a closed drainage system and ends up in a gravel wetland. This design does a good job with nutrient and pollutant removal. Mr. Campbell said that he appreciated their concerns about trucks, but asked if they could use pervious pavement only on the area where cars park. Mr. Smith said that since they can't sand it, they would have to use excess ice melt, whereas the impervious pavement could be sanded and will also route the runoff into the drainage areas.

Mr. Piskovitz asked why they'd requested a waiver for Regulation 7.4.7 on identifying significant trees. Mr. Smith responded that a large portion of the property was cleared in 2011 or 2012, and they're now clearing only a small area. There are many trees on the property, and it doesn't add any value to do an inventory. Mr. Piskovitz pointed out that they don't have to map every tree, just significant ones, those having a 16 inch caliper or greater at 12 inches above the ground. He added that this is a regulation for a reason, and being cumbersome is not a valid reason to waive it. Ms. Ward asked about the proportion of trees on the site which are significant. Mr. Smith said there are many, mostly old growth pines mostly but some hardwood. Ms. Murphy said that she's working on a proposal to revise this regulation, since 16 inches at 12 inches above the ground covers many trees, even small ones. Ms. Raub asked about

revegetation, and Mr. Smith said there are significant plantings proposed.

Mr. Koff asked if there will be fuel storage on site. Mark Hodston of Palmer & Sicard answered that there will only be propane storage. Ms. Ward asked if it is state of the art to put propane tanks underground, and Mr. Smith said it's the safer option. Nothing will be exposed except the fill pipes.

Mr. Campbell mentioned a letter to Christian Smith from Luke Hurley in the packet which discusses the Wetlands Waiver criteria for this project. In this letter, Mr. Hurley mentions Planner Comment #13: the extent of wetlands on the site has not changed; the upper isolated wetlands are small and have minimal functions and values, while those associated with Dearborn Brook have more significant value. Mr. Campbell pointed out that these two areas are also described as part of the same system. Mr. Hurley responded that they are isolated wetlands, Dearborn Brook on the north of the site and the unnamed "DOT Stream" on the south. They are one system but have a topographical division between them, with no hydrologic connection.

Mr. Campbell said that for criteria number 1, most of this project is beyond the setback, and the remaining area should not be impacted by runoff. For criteria 2, they did a Function and Values study of these wetlands. Mr. Hurley added that they avoided one wetland area. Mr. Campbell mentioned criteria 3, the use cannot be reasonably carried out on another portion of the land. Mr. Hurley said if they were to move it to the south, they would hit the more protected buffer and more wetlands. They are proposing a smaller size building this time than in the original proposal. Mr. Campbell mentioned criteria 4, the applicant has made substantial effort to minimize impacts to the buffer. Mr. Hurley said that if they were to move to the south, they would be impacting more of Dearborn Brook buffer. Mr. Campbell said that for criteria 5, there is a drainage system, two detention ponds, and a leach field. For criteria 6, he said that the project will consider the Commission's recommendations once they make them. For criteria 7, he wondered if there be more plantings, and suggested they leave the most valuable wetlands undisturbed. He asked about the view from the road, and Mr. Smith responded that 50 feet of forest will remain, aside from the driveway, so there will be screening.

Mr. Short asked if they will be planting the detention ponds. Mr. Smith said yes, they will be using New England Conservation Mix and some shrubs. Mr. Short responded that it will be hard to keep shrubs alive, and suggested they save the resources for plantings elsewhere. Mr. Smith said he would see if DOT will allow that.

Mr. Campbell then discussed the CUP criteria as described in Mr. Smith's letter to the Planning Board in the packet. For Condition A, surface water, this will not result in unhealthy conditions. All snow will be plowed away from storage areas. He added that Dearborn Brook is the main concern. Mr. Smith responded that there is a 300 foot setback from Dearborn Brook, and they will push the snow as far away from that side of the property as possible. There will be snow stacking that will melt into the treatment pond. Catch basins will catch melt from the driveway; curbing along the driveway will direct runoff to the catch basins. The driveways are super elevated at a 2% slope, with no curbing; the grass slopes toward the building, creating a diversion at the edge.

Mr. Campbell mentioned that for criteria B, the project will solely discharge wastewater into a septic field. Criteria C, there will be no damage to spawning grounds or other habitat. Runoff to Dearborn Brook or the DOT stream would do that, but they're far enough back.

Criteria D and E, there will be revegetation of previously logged area, and they revised the layout to minimize encroachment into the district, consistent with purpose 9.3.1. There will be no disturbance within 150 feet of shoreline protection district.

MOTION: Ms. Raub moved that they reviewed the application and had no objection to the issuance of a Shoreland Conditional Use Permit and Wetlands Waiver. Ms. Ward seconded. Mr. Piskovitz asked if anyone else had an issue with the significant tree waiver; according to regulation 13.7 the Planning Board shall not grant a waiver unless the conditions are unique to a property. He added that this concern doesn't have to do with the waivers, and that he thinks the engineers did a good job, reduced the size, and are leaving a lot of forest. He just have an issue asking for a waiver because it's cumbersome when it doesn't meet the requirements. Mr. Campbell said he wondered what the purpose of the regulation is, since it's usually waived. Ms. Murphy said it's not just about significant trees, but also unique or significant habitats on the property. Mr. Short commented that they can't isolate trees to preserve, since they're mostly white pine that will go down if isolated. Ms. Surman asked why this process is cumbersome, and Mr. Smith responded that lots of trees that meet the criteria, and they are saving as much as they can with this proposal. Any trees closer to the project they tried to save would likely sustain root damage during construction. Mr. Campbell suggested they not amend the motion, but suggested that Ms. Murphy add a comment to the Planning Board questioning the application of this regulation. Mr. Koff pointed out that they will have a choice for the well path, and a tree inventory could help them determine the best way to go, but Mr. Smith objected, saying that falls in the area that was previously clear cut. Ms. Raub suggested they plant trees in this area after installing the well. All were in favor of the motion.

2. Committee Reports

a. Planning and Property Management

i. Proposed Legislation Overview

Ms. Murphy said there is a memo from the Conservation Commission Roundtable concerning all the legislation before the state pertaining to environmental things. They are looking to increase the fees for all applications to the DES, hoping to get money to hire more people. HB281 would allow you to put Beaver Deceivers in without a permit. Mr. Koff explained that a Beaver Deceiver is a flow-through pipe which can control the flow of water through the dam, and usually the beavers don't know that the water is not blocked.

ii. Mitigation Project Update, Conservation Roundtable 4/23

Ms. Murphy said she is generating a list of mitigation opportunities that could be ready to move forward when a project arises that will impact over the wetland mitigation threshold, with an eye towards keeping the mitigation money in town. Some of these opportunities are non-public because they are related to property acquisition. If the commission were to propose the acquisition of a property as mitigation, the applicant does the Function and Values study, survey, baseline document, and other preapproval steps; those tasks are not the town's responsibility. She will bring the mitigation list to the Conservation Roundtable in April for further feedback from DES ARM's director, Lori Summers.

Mr. Mattera added that this list could be used when another project requiring mitigation comes here, but the Conservation Commission could also look for potential funding. The project at the golf course may actually be two projects; on one end there is a marsh migration issue, and on the other an erosional issue. The erosion is easier to tackle.

Ms. Murphy said that Unitil submitted their wetland application with proposal for mitigation to the ARM fund of \$75,000. There was correspondence from DES saying they'd issued wetland permits to that landowner for two other locations, so it would all be considered one single proposal and required mitigation fees for the two other wetland impact areas. Ms. Murphy thought this might give the town time to get back in the door for mitigation, but they're trying to move this project along quickly.

Mr. Mattera said that if they did the engineering study for the erosional piece with a salt marsh restoration project, they could put in an application for ARM funding. They couldn't use mitigation funds solely for the engineering study, but they could wrap the engineering in as long as project is done in the end. Mr. Campbell asked if they required a match, but Ms. White and Mr. Mattera didn't think it was an exact match. Mr. Mattera suggested that the match could be the engineering cost, or the cost of the five years of post-project monitoring which an ARM restoration project requires.

iii. Annual Planning Dashboard

Mr. Campbell said that he had updated the Annual Planning Dashboard presented at the last meeting by categorizing the activities and relating them to the Master Plan. Ms. Murphy said this document is on the shared Google Drive, and encouraged Commission members to add and update events. Mr. Koff suggested adding a field for noting the date of any updates, as well as the updater's name.

iv. Appointment Renewals & Officer Term Reminder

Mr. Campbell said that April is the Commission's membership renewal time. Three members' terms are up, but he hopes they will return. Appointments will be made by April 30. In the May meeting, they will elect new officers, and he would like to step down from being Chair if anyone's interested in taking on the role.

b. Trails

Mr. Campbell said he got the new signs from Jon Thunberg, and they will be putting them up soon, as well as revising the maps. They are also planning the 11x17s that will go in the Oaklands and Henderson-Swasey, then will work on the ones for either side of the tunnel.

c. Outreach Events

i. Raynes Event Planning, RFSC meeting date, Proposed Expenses (Sally Ward)

Ms. Ward said that the Stewardship Committee met in January, and a subcommittee met in February to talk specifically about events. Their goal is to have more events at Raynes, which will educate the public and increase support for the site, and will be attractive to LCHIP next year. They aspire to have monthly events. During the growing season, events would be in the barn or parking lot; in the offseason, they could be in the fields. There will be a Skywatch

stargazing event on October 18th with the NH Astronomical Society. There's a Storywalk in October, on the 26th or 27th. May 4 is a Speaking for Wildlife event; Ms. Murphy said they will send a masters student who specializes in bat research to give a talk, followed by a registration-only portion to construct bat house kits. Ms. Murphy said they could also do a window glazing workshop on June 29th; this is an all-day workshop limited to 10 people. The Preservation Alliance sends a specialist, and covers set-up and gear. The Conservation Commission would need to cover the cost of bathrooms, which Ms. Murphy estimates at \$200. She reached out to the Heritage Commission about a partnership, and Julie Gilman thought it was a good idea. The cost would be \$60 for registration if affiliated with the Preservation Alliance or the Conservation Commission, or \$75 otherwise.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved that they authorize up to \$250 towards expenses for the window glazing workshop. Mr. Piskovitz seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Ward said that an event is possible involving the 4th graders who study NH history; she will meet with Lincoln Street School about it next week.

Ms. Murphy said that the owner of Yeti Landscaping is interested in volunteer projects. She suggested the gravesite where the mulch has eroded. Mr. Campbell said he would rather have them work on the barn.

Ms. Ward said she would like to put a sign at Raynes in support of the concept of the "Conservation Center at Raynes." Mr. Campbell suggested they put it on the back of the kiosk.

Ms. Ward said that Ben Anderson of the Stewardship Committee has left two tables in the barn for their use, and will bring additional tables from the Word Barn for events as needed. April 13th 1-3 PM will be an Easter Family Story Hour and Easter Egg Hunt, with an assortment of baby animals.

ii. SST/ECC Partnership: Morrissette Property Earth Day Clean Up (Kristen)

Ms. Murphy said she had proposed potential clean-up dates to Anne Demarco at SST, but none of the dates worked, so she's now looking at the week of April 15th. The event would be 7:30 AM – 1:50 PM. Ms. Raub will provide milkweed seed balls for the students to throw.

iii. PEA Climate Action Day: Henderson Swasey Invasive Plant Removal 4/26 (Bill)

Mr. Campbell said he would like to have the students do invasive removal work, since Mr. Guindon will be back. There will be 14 kids, so he suggested pairing them up and giving them some identification tips, then sending them out. Ms. Raub offered to go out and tag the invasives beforehand.

iv. Spring Tree 4/30 8:45 - 10:30, packing 4/27, 4/28, Proposed Expense (Kristen)

Mr. Campbell said that Peter Waltz is planning his 28th annual spring tree planting with the schools. There are 200 trees and they need to be bagged. Ms. Murphy said the proposed expense for this project is \$218, but she suggested they approve up to \$225.

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to approve the allocation of up to \$225 from the Community Events budget to cover the costs of the tree planting event. Ms. Ward seconded. All were in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes: February 20th meeting

MOTION: Ms. Raub moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Short seconded. All were in favor.

4. Correspondence

Ms. Murphy said there was a flyer from the Student Conservation Association, a volunteer organization. They can help with invasive plant removal, trail work, trail design and installation. They come for 11 days, camp onsite, bring their own tools and equipment, and have leaders to supervise. They require that recipient pay some of the costs: over \$10,000 for 11 days, or a 5 day stint for \$5,250. Mr. Campbell said the half session could be managed by not having interns this year. Ms. Murphy said they spend about \$2,500 on interns. Mr. Koff mentioned the Forestry Fund, and Ms. Murphy said there is about \$12,000 in this fund, which are proceeds from the logging operation. Mr. Campbell said there would not be too much Commission involvement, perhaps checking in once daily. Ms. Raub asked if there were enough for the volunteers to do for 5 days, and Ms. Murphy said that the map Mr. Guindon made showed extensive work to be done. Mr. Campbell suggested they also do trail work, small bridge building, etc. Ms. Murphy said there's a good volunteer network for the trails, but the invasives are an issue. Mr. Short agreed, saying it's easier to get people excited about trail work rather than invasives. He suggested that a group like SCA could go through systematically and make a clean sweep, leaving no pockets of invasives behind. If they could approach 100% eradication, it would be easier to maintain from year to year. Ms. Murphy will follow up with the SCA on this project.

5. Other Business

Mr. Piskovitz mentioned that two of the ballot measures which passed, articles 30 and 31, impact the Commission. Article 30 was the rights-based ordinance giving the climate and the environment their own say in development. Article 31 was the creation of a Sustainability Officer. These will help in the work they do, but also show that the town cares about the environment and the work the commission does.

He mentioned that the Sustainability Officer article was nonbinding, but Julie Gilman informally said it's not a lot of money and they could make it work. This person would bridge the gap when they have questions for the Planning Board or Zoning Board. Mr. Campbell said they still need a job description, which could take a couple months. Ms. Ward said that the group behind that warrant article will volunteer to work with the Select Board to create the description.

Ms. Murphy said that tomorrow she will be attending a Nature Economy Workshop, related to selling people on the benefits of maintaining healthy and diverse natural resources. She will bring back information to the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Date Scheduled 4/9/19, Submission Deadline 3/29/19

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to adjourn. Mr. Short seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary