



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, June 11th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

Action Items

1. Request for Annual Acidotic Racing Exeter Trail Race (Sarah Sallade)
2. Request for discussion on tree planning (Eileen Flockhart)
3. Request to set a date for a tour of the Water Trail with Rockingham Planning Commission
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Planning and Property Management
 - i. Intern Start Date 6/17
 - ii. Master Plan Action Agenda
 - iii. Grassland Bird Survey Potential
 - b. Trails
 - i. Luke Tyner's scout project update
 - ii. Kiosk sign purchase request
 - iii. Oaklands new trail adjacent to wetland
 - c. Outreach Events
 - i. Update Exploring Exeter Walk, Coop Middle School Project
 - ii. Upcoming: Raynes Window Workshop 6/29, Exploring Exeter 7/20
5. Approval of Minutes: May 14th Meeting
6. Correspondence
7. Other Business
8. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (7/9/19), Submission Deadline 6/28/19)

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

Todd Piskovitz, Chair

Exeter Conservation Commission

Posted June 7th, 2019 Exeter Town Office, Exeter Public Library, and Town Departments.

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 29, 2019*

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 near 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 _____

Sarah Sallade

5/23/19

Event Point of Contact

Date

Conservation Commission

Date



The
Exeter
Trail Race

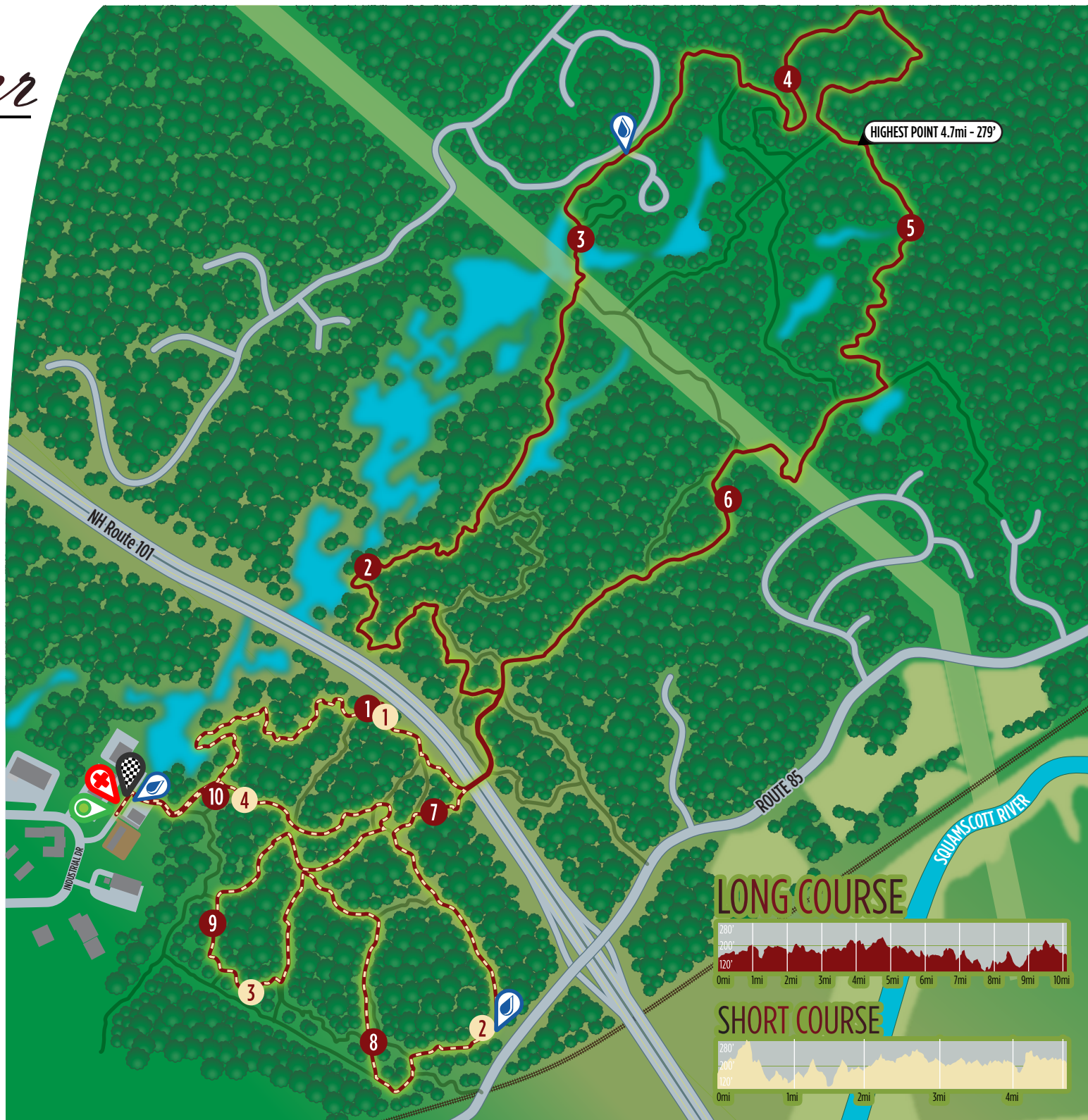
10 MILE
LONG COURSE
4.5 MILES
SHORT COURSE

One of the most popular trail running and mountain biking networks in the northeast, the Henderson-Swasey & Oaklands Town Forest - better known as Fort Rock - is located just minutes from downtown Exeter, NH. As the names imply, the entire system runs through scenic New England forest, and the trails have gained a reputation for their challenging rock-gardens and root-yards. Fortunately, those who run there often know they also feature plenty of flowing soft needle-cushioned sections well suited for speed. Indeed, these trails have gained their popularity for a reason and whether it's technical trail running, smooth single track, or just the serenity of a run in the woods, search no further, the Exeter Trail Race has it all.

For those looking for the "full" experience the race features a 10 mile course as it's "premier" event, as well as a 4.5 mile course for those who want to experience the highlights of the trails with a little less commitment. Though the starting point will be the same for both races, a wave start between the two distances will help ease course congestion. While the 4.5 mile course will be run entirely in the Henderson-Swasey Town Forest, after 1.5 miles the 10 mile runners will detour under route 101 and into the Oaklands for 6 miles and return back through the tunnel to finish the remainder of the short course. Water stops will be located at approximately 3.5 and 7.5 miles on the 10 mile course. There will be one water stop on the 4.5 mile course at 2 miles, and the start/finish will be supplied with water and other post-race refreshments.

LONG COURSE  1 LONG COURSE  1

START  FINISH  WATER/AID  MEDICAL 





Exeter Water Trail

Explore the Exeter Water Trail

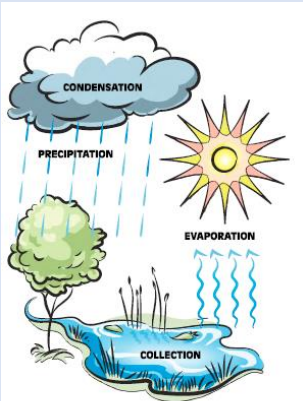
The Exeter Water Trail is an educational installation on the campuses of the Main Street and Lincoln Street Elementary Schools. The Trail consists of a series of five signs located at various landscape features that illustrate concepts relating to water. Topics such as stormwater runoff, water quality, flooding, watersheds and the water cycle are displayed in brightly colored graphic images and narrative explanations.



Learn about water! It's everywhere – above ground and below ground!

Water Trail Activity Sheet

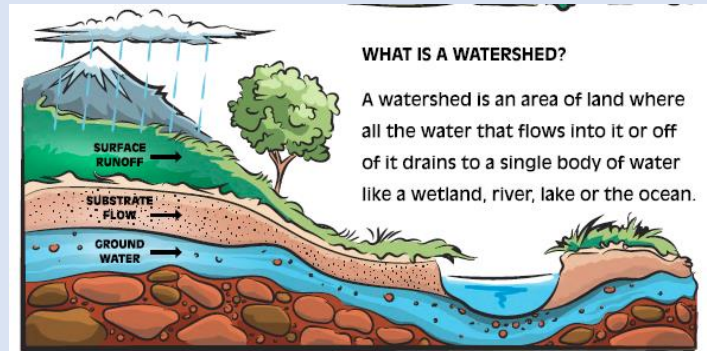
Use the interactive Water Trail Activity Sheet to discover answers to these questions:



WHAT IS THE WATER CYCLE?

The water cycle, also known as the hydrologic cycle, describes the movement of water on, above, and below the surface of the Earth.

- What is the water cycle?*
- What is a watershed?*
- Why are wetlands important?*
- What is an urban watershed?*
- What is a "man-made" wetland?*
- How is stormwater managed above and below the ground?*



WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land where all the water that flows into it or off of it drains to a single body of water like a wetland, river, lake or the ocean.

- What is stormwater?*
- Why do we need to manage stormwater?*
- What is porous pavement?*

Download a printable copy of the Water Trail Flyer and Map here www.rpc-nh.org/regional-community-planning/climate-change/exeter-resilience

The Exeter Water Trail is open to the public during non-school hours and weekends.



Support for this project was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program.

WATER TRAIL MAP

Main Street Elementary Schools and Lincoln Street Elementary School

Follow the *rain drop markings* on the pavement and the *way finding markers* along the Nature Trail to view the 5 Water Trail signs.



Explore the Water Trail signs to find out how water works in 5 different ways on the landscape!

1. Watershed and Water Cycle
2. Natural Wooded Wetland
3. Constructed Gravel Wetland
4. Porous Pavement
5. Underground Stormwater Systems

This Action Agenda provides a path for the Town of Exeter to meet its goals and objectives. Many actions were directly taken from public events and interviews conducted during the update process. Each action has lead municipal staff that will initiate the action and guide it through implementation. Local boards and commissions that can support staff have also been identified. Partners in the community and around the region are highlighted in the action description.

This Master Plan is a 10-year plan and the Action Agenda is structured within that timeframe. Target completion dates are short term (completed by the end of 2020), mid term (completed between 2021 and end of 2024), and long term (completed by 2025 or further out).

Some actions are dependent on the completion of others. These sequential actions are grouped together in the Action Agenda.

Support

	SUPPORT Action	Town Lead	Town Support	Timeframe
3	Identify new facilities or programming, using the findings of the UNH Needs Assessment and Planning Report (2014-2015) as a starting point. Estimate costs and feasibility of providing these new facilities/activities.	Parks & Rec Dept, Town Manager, Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission, Selectboard	Mid Term
7	Develop a public awareness campaign to educate residents and businesses about water quality and state and federal mandates that require the Town to improve and monitor it. Include such topics as: what the mandates require the Town to do (new programs, infrastructure projects, etc.), the impact of lower water quality on the quality of life in Exeter, and how residents and businesses can contribute to improving water quality.	Dept of Public Works, Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission, River Advisory Committee	Short Term

Prepare

	PREPARE Action	Town Lead	Town Support	Timeframe
2a	Based on most recent data available, inventory properties most vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge, and other natural hazards. Where possible, estimate the time horizon for impacts. Develop outreach methods to education private property owners about the risks and ways they can minimize impacts to their properties.	Town Planner, Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, River Advisory Committee	Short Term

2b	For areas identified most vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge, and other natural hazards, evaluate town land use policies for these areas and consider alternatives to minimize risk in each area. These might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquiring property to minimize the impact of sea level rise, chronic flooding, marsh migration, etc. to public and private property. Limit redevelopment after flood or storm damage. Decisions where to extend (or not extend) infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.) 	Town Planner, Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, River Advisory Committee	Mid Term
2c	Based on findings of the land use policies evaluation, implement new land use policies and regulations to reduce risks from sea level rise, storm surge, and other natural hazards.	Town Planner, Natural Resource Planner	Selectboard, Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Mid Term

Steward

	STEWARD Action	Town Lead	Town Support	Timeframe
1a	Identify properties that are less likely be developed based on regulatory requirements and determine whether this affects their prioritization level for acquisition.	Town Planner, Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission	Short Term
1b	Review criteria for acquiring land for conservation and consider adding criteria related to sea level rise, marsh migration, chronic flooding, storm surge, and other impacts of climate change and natural hazards.	Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission, River Advisory Committee, Selectboard	Mid Term
2	Based on revised criteria and assessment of natural resources already under regulatory protection, prioritize parcels of interest for conservation purposes. Consider available and future funding sources and other tools available to protect land. Develop a 10-year schedule for implementation.	Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission, Selectboard	Mid Term
6c	Review and update the Trail Maintenance Plan (2009). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify recommendations that have not been completed. Determine which recommendations are still relevant and which are not. Identify new recommendations as needed. Develop a 10-year schedule for maintenance, improvements, or future assessments. 	Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission	Short Term
7	Establish a “Friends” group of volunteers for individual town conservation properties to support and help with maintenance, including trail infrastructure, debris and litter, installations, etc.	Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission	Short Term

	STEWARD Action	Town Lead	Town Support	Timeframe
8	Prioritize town conservation properties in need of invasive species management. Estimate costs and develop a 10-year schedule for management strategies.	Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission	Mid Term
9	<p>Review and revise existing forest management plans (Henderson-Swasey (2011) and Oaklands (1993)) as needed to ensure they remain relevant to conservation land management goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify recommendations that have not been completed. Determine which recommendations are still relevant and which are not. Identify new recommendations as needed. Develop a 10-year schedule for maintenance, improvements, or future assessments. 	Natural Resource Planner	Conservation Commission	Short Term

Grow

	GROW Action	Town Lead	Town Support	Timeframe
6	Develop a clearinghouse of low-interest loan and grant opportunities for Exeter residents to make improvements to older homes to address needed upgrades, energy efficiency, or environmental hazard reduction. Resources may be New Hampshire Housing, local non-profits, or use of Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) to establish a municipal program.	To be determined	Housing Advisory Committee	Mid Term

Connect

	CONNECT Action	Town Lead	Town Support	Timeframe
2a	<p>Prepare a town-wide Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan that looks at both walking and biking as modes of transportation beyond recreation. Identify improvements to existing amenities and areas where new amenities could be feasibly installed to promote walking and biking. Use the concurrent parking study (or parking management plan if already developed) for Downtown to inform the plan.</p> <p>Destinations/Routes to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All public schools • Epping Road to Downtown • Lincoln Street/Train Station to Downtown • Portsmouth Avenue to Downtown • All surrounding residential areas to Downtown • Open space and recreational resources <p>Prioritize improvements/new projects and develop a 10-year schedule for implementation.</p>	Town Planner, Dept of Public Works	Planning Board	Short Term
2c	<p>Consider amending Site and Subdivision Regulations to put more emphasis on pedestrian and bike access within new development (as appropriate) and making connections with neighboring residential areas as well as shopping areas and recreation/conservation lands.</p>	Town Planner	Planning Board, Selectboard	Mid Term
4	<p>Working with private and public land owners, evaluate the feasibility of a pedestrian walkway/access along the Squamscott River from Swasey Parkway to the Library.</p>	Town Planner, DPW, Town Manager	Selectboard, River Advisory Committee	Short Term

Communicate

	COMMUNICATE Action	Town Lead	Town Support	Timeframe
1	Establish a small committee charged with researching municipal information and management technologies for the Town. If deemed necessary by the committee, approve funding to hire one or more industry professionals that can help the Town select and launch a new information/ management/ permitting platform.	Town Manager, Information Technology	Selectboard	Short Term
2	Develop a more frequent official, regular system of interdepartmental meetings to review current initiatives and workload in each department and potential efficiencies that could occur by combining efforts.	Town Manager	Selectboard	Short to Mid Term
3	Develop materials (paper and/or digital) for the Town to be used to attract businesses, residents, and visitors. Work with the Chamber of Commerce, HERON, Historical Society, PEA, and other community groups and organizations.	Economic Development Director	Economic Development Commission, Historic District, Heritage Commission, Arts Committee	Mid Term
4	Continue to organize community forums to discuss issues important to Exeter. Ensure that events, especially large ones, provide options for food and child care.	TBD	Selectboard, All Boards, Town Departments	Short to Mid Term
6	Develop language to be included in municipal RFPs that requires the inclusion of diverse and effective public engagement processes as part of municipal planning, design, and construction processes.	Town Manager	All Departments issuing RFPs	Short Term

Exeter Conservation Commission
May 14, 2019
Town Offices Nowak Room
Draft Minutes

Call To Order

1. Introduction of Members Present

Present at tonight's meeting were Bill Campbell, Carlos Guindon, Ginny Raub, Andrew Koff, Sally Ward, Todd Piskovitz, Andy Weeks, Lindsey White, Alyson Eberhardt, Dave Short, Lucretia Ganley, Trevor Mattera, Julie Gilman, and Kristen Murphy. Mr. Campbell called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

2. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

Action items

1. Eagle Project Proposal for Bridge at Raynes Farm (Luke Tyner)

Luke Tyner, an Eagle Scout, described the bridge project he is working on at Raynes Farm. The gap is 4 - 5 feet, and he estimates the bridge will be 10-15 feet long and 6 feet wide with railings, but he does not yet have a design. Ms. Murphy asked Mr. Tyner to have Mr. Short, who is supervising the project, review the physical design for the bridge. Mr. Campbell suggested also putting a trail marker to show where to enter the woods.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to go ahead with this project and have Mr. Short be the point person reviewing design and overseeing the effort. Ms. Eberhardt seconded. All were in favor.

2. Wetland and Shoreland Conditional Use Permit Applications to allow for temporary impacts associated with transmission utility line maintenance within the exiting right of way at Watson Road (adjacent to trail parking lot) and Newfields Road (Raynes Farm property). PB Case #19-05 (Kristopher P. Wilkes, VHB)

Sherrie Trefry of VHB and Matt Cardin and Matt Flanders of Eversource were present to discuss the project. Ms. Trefry said that Eversource had identified several poles in Exeter that require replacement due to age and condition. There will be four replacements on the A126 transmission line and two replacements on H141. The existing structures are wooden H-frame structures, to be replaced with steel. Each will be moved forward or back along the existing line of utility between 10 and 40 feet, and some structures will increase in height between 9 and 22 feet to achieve appropriate clearances for the line.

Along transmission line A126, access is proposed to come from an existing parking area on Watson Rd. There is a proposed 100' x 100' work pad area of timber matting which will have 8,237 square feet of wetland impact and 1,754 square feet of buffer impact. Ms. Eberhardt asked if they could move the impact area around structure 176 to the west to reduce wetland

impact, but Mr. Cardin responded that to the west is a large pile of rocks, so they would have to level that whole area and the work pad would be larger than 100' by 100'. There will be temporary wetland impacts, but the vegetation should bounce back within the growing season. Ms. Murphy agreed, saying when Eversource worked in this area two years ago it was surprising how quickly the vegetation came back.

Mr. Campbell asked if they will address the invasive Japanese Knotweed present, and Mr. Cardin said that the best access option is to go through a section of Knotweed, so they could unearth it down to the root and bury it as mitigation. Mr. Guindon said that would be a good solution as long as they bury it deeply. Ms. Eberhardt was concerned that burying it would just be planting it somewhere else, and Mr. Cardin said that they would be sure to bury it in place so in the worst case it would come back up in the same place.

Ms. Trefry said that at Raynes Farm, working on structures 158 and 140 there would be 1,878 square feet of impact, all on matting with no long term impact to soils. For structure 157, there is 3,255 square feet of impact. There would be some buffer impact for the establishment of the work pad and access crossing the wetland, 982 square feet. Structures 156 and 138 are adjacent to the Squamscott River, upland but near the shoreland. There's a 300' shoreline buffer impact of 14,266 square feet, and 55 square feet in the 150 foot tidal buffer.

Mr. Campbell asked if they would remove invasives there as well, but Mr. Cardin said the main effort they would make to control invasives would be to make sure that the mats and equipment are cleaned with compressed air going in and out, so they are not distributing invasives.

Ms. Raub asked when the project would start at Raynes Farm. Mr. Cardin said it would correspond to a planned outage of the lines from October 7th to end of November, although the crew will need to go in earlier to place the timber mats. He hopes the work can cohabitate with planned events at Raynes Farm. Events will be taking place on weekends, so they could use signage, fencing, or even a marshal to keep people away from work sites. Mr. Short said the access road is not an issue, just the worksite, although he suggested blocking off the road to ensure no one drives it off hours. Ms. Murphy asked if the Commission would consider closing the property during this period, aside from the two planned events. Mr. Campbell felt they could leave it open and just use signage or some barrier.

Mr. Campbell asked if they would reseed impacted areas. Mr. Cardin responded that this shouldn't be necessary, but if there is a need for restoration they would work with the town on the appropriate seed.

Mr. Campbell went through the Conditional Use conditions: 1) *Proposed use is permitted in the underlying zoning district.* He said this is true. Ms. Trefry said yes, it's in the rural zoning district. 2) *Cannot feasibly be carried out on a portion of the lot outside the Wetlands Conservation Overlay District.* Ms. Trefry said it's unavoidable to impact the wetlands, but they tried to minimize the impact. 3) *Proposed impact has been evaluated in the context of the "relative value" of the wetland, and is not detrimental to the function and value of the wetlands.* Mr. Campbell said yes. 4) *Design, construction, and maintenance of proposed use will minimize detrimental impact to the wetland buffer.* Mr. Campbell said yes, and there doesn't seem to be a way around some impact. 5) *In the case where the proposed use is temporary, the landowner agrees to restore the site as nearly as possible to its original grade and condition following construction.* Mr. Campbell said in this case Eversource is the restorer, and they will use seed

and mulch if necessary. 6) *Proposed use will not create a hazard to public health, safety, and welfare due to the loss of wetland, the contamination of groundwater, or other reasons.* Mr. Campbell said yes, the impacts are temporary. 7) *All required permits will be obtained from NH DES before the project.* Ms. Trefry said yes.

Mr. Campbell then went through the 9.3.4(G)(2) conditional uses - conditions for a wetland buffer. A) *Proposed use will not detrimentally affect the surface water quality of the adjacent river.* Mr. Campbell said they will use erosion and sediment control barriers. B) *Proposed use will discharge no waste water on site.* Ms. Trefry said there will be no wastewater. They will use air to blow off the mats. If necessary, any water will go to a dewatering basin, but they do not anticipate this. C) *Will not damage spawning grounds.* Mr. Campbell said that no wildlife habitat impact is anticipated. D) *Proposed use complies with the use regulations identified in Article 9.3.4.* Mr. Campbell said yes, they just talked about that. E) *Design and construction of the proposed use will be consistent with the intent of the purposes set forth in Article 9.3. 1. Exeter Shoreland Protection District Ordinance.* Mr. Campbell said yes.

Ms. Ward suggested monitoring the site for public safety concerns. Ms. Trefry said there will be a monitoring component. Mr. Cardin added that safety is a huge component of their work, and he will alert the crew to be aware of public impacts. They will also have environmental inspections once a week. Ms. Murphy asked them to coordinate with her so she can bring the farmer into discussions regarding the timing of haying. Last year they haying was not done before October 8th due to wet fields. Mr. Cardin proposed that 3 - 4 weeks prior to October 1, they could see where the conditions are at, but Eversource may want to do the work regardless. He said that Mr. Flanders works with property owners and has a formula for crop loss compensation, so if there were impacts they could work with the municipality or the lessee.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved that they recommend approval of this project to the Planning Board, contingent on working with Kristin Murphy on the haying operation three weeks prior to the project. Mr. Guindon seconded. All were in favor.

3. Election of Officers

- a. Mr. Campbell opened the floor for nominations for chair. Ms. Ward nominated Todd Piskovitz. Dave Short seconded. Mr. Piskovitz warned that he doesn't do much communication outside of meetings or participate in events.

MOTION: Ms. Eberhardt moved that the nominations for Chair be closed and to make one unanimous vote for Mr. Piskovitz for Chair. Mr. Short seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Piskovitz said he would take over at the next meeting.

- b. Mr. Campbell asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Ward nominated Mr. Koff. Mr. Guindon seconded.

MOTION: Ms. Eberhardt moved that nominations for Vice Chair be closed and to unanimously vote for Mr. Koff as Vice Chair. Ms. Ward seconded. All were in favor.

- c. Mr. Campbell asked for nominations for Treasurer. Mr. Guindon nominated Dave Short. Ms. Ward seconded.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to close the nominations and to unanimously vote for Mr. Short as treasurer. Mr. Piskovitz seconded. All were in favor.

d. Mr. Piskovitz nominated Sally Ward as Clerk. Mr. Short seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Guindon moved to close nominations and unanimously vote for Ms. Ward as Clerk. Ms. Eberhardt seconded. All were in favor.

e. Ms. Ward thanked Mr. Campbell for his service as Chair and presented him with a gift.

Ms. Eberhardt left the meeting at this time.

4. Committee Reports Planning and Property Management

i. Updates: SST Morrissette Clean Up, PEA Invasive Pull

Mr. Campbell said Ms. Murphy, Ms. Eberhardt, and he had done a cleanup of the Morrissette property with three classes from SST. They cleaned it up pretty well and spread wood chips to help with the dampness. Ms. Murphy added that it was awesome to see such engaged students, and gave thanks to Public Works who disposed of materials afterwards.

Mr. Guindon said that he, Mr. Campbell, and 14 PEA students had done an invasive pull. They didn't cover much area but pulled up a lot of invasives. He also checked on previously pulled plants; some were hung on branches and some were bagged, but he found that hanging worked better, as almost 100% of the ones pulled and hung were dead.

Mr. Short left the meeting at this time.

ii. Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee Meeting Update

Ms. Ward said that at the Stewardship Committee meeting of April 17th they went over the dashboard, which summarizes events, property maintenance issues, and goals. The dashboard is a great resource and they will use it extensively when applying to the LCHIP grant next year. Ms. Murphy clarified that their dashboard was a filter view of the shared Google sheet.

Ms. Ward said that they had also talked about recent events. They had to cancel the Easter event due to lack of registration, possibly because of the fee. About 10 people participated in the Woodcock Walk on Earth Day, and they heard and saw the Woodcock despite the weather. The bat event had to be moved from the farm to the Town Offices because of weather, but the talk on bats by a UNH PHD student was engaging and several attendees made bat houses. The Stewardship Committee have also been in discussion with Lincoln Street school to have the history of Raynes Farm integrated into their 4th grade project next year.

There were property management updates, such as the bridge previously discussed in this meeting. They acknowledged the work that Mr. Campbell did with the DPW to clear and spread out a dirt pile at Raynes. They met with Jordan Dickenson regarding sustainable agriculture and Raynes Farm. They discussed the concept of the Raynes Conservation Center as a virtual center, not a physical center, and intend to add the "Conservation Center" tag to their discussions of Raynes Farm. That concept will continue to unfold as they work on the barn.

Mr. Campbell added that there are nesting signs at Raynes farm; bobolinks are in the fields so please keep dogs on leash.

Ms. Murphy said that there is a window repair workshop in June in partnership with the Exeter Heritage Commission and the NH Preservation Alliance, and she would like to know in advance if someone on the commission would like to attend at a discounted rate of \$60.

iii. Walleryszyk Easement

Ms. Murphy said she had a phone call about logs being stored on the Walleryszyk Easement, which is not in compliance with the easement. This property is a small conservation easement area on Court Street along the Exeter River, associated with Exeter Elms campground. She sent them an email and followed up with a certified letter, and the letter was returned. She needs to figure out the proper address to send it to and may follow up with a compliance action. She hopes it doesn't get to the court level.

b. Trails

i. Oaklands Plank Replacement (Funding Request)

Mr. Campbell said that Mr. Short had volunteers replace the boards that go towards the tunnel from the parking lot and needed reimbursement. Ms. Murphy thanked Mr. Short for being vigilant on trail issues.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to reimburse Mr. Short \$138.67 for plank replacement. Mr. Koff seconded. All were in favor.

ii. Final Draft Henderson Swasey, First Draft Oaklands Kiosk

Ms. Murphy said she'd made updates to the map for the Henderson Swasey Kiosk, based on the Commission's previous comments. They have about \$400 left for replacement kiosk signs. For the Oaklands update, she made similar changes. Between the maps, blazing, and planking, she hopes to have a much safer trail environment. She asked that the Commission members get comments to her by the end of the week.

c. Outreach Events

i. Past Events Update: Woodcock, Spring Tree, NH Bats, Rain Barrel

Mr. Campbell said that he went to the spring tree planting presentation, and was impressed. 200 kids were attentive to Peter Waltz's tree presentation.

Ms. Murphy said that the rain barrels were a challenge. She thought they were delivered but didn't know where, but they couldn't be found. Not until Monday did they find out they were never delivered. Ms. Murphy and the electrical inspector dropped off the rain barrels today.

ii. Exploring Exeter Walk, McDonnell 5/18 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Mr. Campbell said that this event is part of their new ties with Parks and Rec. Mr. Guindon will lead the walk, which is a birding trip.

iii. Coop Middle School Project 5/22 and 6/4

Ms. Murphy said she is continuing the project they do with 8th graders, explaining the importance of buffers in water quality. They will do a Google Earth mapping project and

compare a man-made drainage basin with a wetland basin, and then do water testing. The testing on June 4th, 7:30 AM to 1:50 PM. Mr. Campbell is coming, and Ms. Murphy is looking for one more volunteer to help with the meters.

5. Approval of Minutes: April 9th meeting

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

6. Treasurer's report

Mr. Koff said there were slightly different budget amounts this year, since they moved things around. Much of the remaining budget is salaries for the interns. There is \$5,500 for the SCA invasive management program. Ms. Murphy said the group were booked up for the year before she got back to them, but we'll be ready to hit the ground next year.

MOTION: Mr. Piskovitz moved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Ms. Ward seconded. All were in favor.

7. Correspondence: Action Agenda - Cooperative Extension Opportunity

Ms. Murphy has pulled out the action items in the Master Plan relevant to the Conservation Commission, and she'd like to look at the short term items at the next meeting. There's an opportunity through the NH Coastal program to receive some support which aligns with Prepare action 2A, Educate. A group can come in, inventory properties, and educate property owners about flood risk. The NH Coastal program offers this as a service, it's a grant with no financial match required. Dave Sharples mentioned the option at the Planning Board, and the board were in favor of moving forward with that submission. She may be looking for a work committee that works with the NH Coastal group to move it forward.

MOTION: Mr. Koff moved that they pursue this idea with Lisa Wise and Amanda Stone and submit an application for assistance to this group. Ms. Ward seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Campbell mentioned the project at Exeter Country Club, which they were looking at with an eye to applying to ARM for funds, but no funds were available for the watershed this year. Mr. Mattera said they set up a meeting with Tom Ballestero, a civil engineer at UNH who has also been working on the Wagon Hill Farm living shoreline project, using a natural stabilization method to stop erosion. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Mattera brought Mr. Ballestero on a sitewalk at the Country Club to talk about mitigation funding. Mr. Campbell added that Mr. Ballestero said he would submit some ideas, but they haven't yet heard from him and Mr. Mattera should follow up. They looked at two areas, an area where the marsh is moving in and an eroded area. They haven't approached the Country Club yet, they're looking for specific ideas first. They can submit a grant request to ARM next year or wait for a mitigation project to come before them.

Lindsey White said she's plugging along with her summer project of GIS mapping for priority mitigation sites in Exeter, following Section 800 of the environmental rules. This project takes into account a point-based system of what they look for and what gets prioritized. They can then try to line up projects on parcels that are in the best position for funding.

Mr. Campbell said that at the next meeting, he'd like to discuss how to prioritize short term goals, i.e. the next 1-3 years.

8. Other Business

Ms. Ganley asked if they had considered composting for the whole town. Ms. Ward said the composting company Mr. Fox works with municipalities, and suggested that Public Works could work with them. Ms. Murphy said herself and Darren Winham were scheduled to meet with Mr. Fox regarding downtown businesses but they need to reschedule, and she would be happy to bring Ms. Ganley along. Mr. Fox also contracts with private homes. Mr. Campbell added that the town composts leaves at the landfill, and you can get compost there.

Ms. Ganley said that the Squamscott River needs dredging, since the curve of the river is getting narrower. Ms. Murphy said there's a project with NH Fish and Game to address deposits on smelt beds downstream from String Bridge, where they plan to do some modification and management. The Academy dredged boat dock at one time but it was very costly.

Ms. Gilman said that SB 285 on Coastal Resiliency just passed through Senate and House. This will allow them to create districts to help preserve a natural resource; for example, Exeter and Stratham could work together to protect the river.

Ms. Murphy said they'd received mail from a resident on Riverbend Circle asking how they can protect 110 Linden Street, which is directly north of McDonnell conservation area. The property came before the Commission many years ago for a controversial subdivision. A Wetland permit was issued, but project never went forward. The Commission doesn't have an application in front of them, so she just wants the commission to be aware.

9. Next Meeting

- a. Date Scheduled 6/11/19, Submission Deadline 5/31/19

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.

MOTION: Ms. Ward moved to enter 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. Mr. Piskovitz seconded. Ms. Raub and Ms. White were asked to vote as Ms. Eberhardt and Mr. Short had left. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Public session resumed at 9:45 pm. Ms. Ward made a motion to seal the minutes, seconded by Mr. Koff. All were in favor.

Adjournment

9:45 pm Bill Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ward. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



ConCom FB page banner contest

1 message

David O'Hearn <david.ohearn@sunteckts.com>
To: Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov>
Cc: "Piskovitz, Todd" <tpisk@comcast.net>

Tue, Jun 4, 2019 at 1:53 PM

Hi Kristen,

May I please suggest an Exeter ConCom banner page contest? I like to change my FB banner to reflect the season.

There doesn't have to be any prizes. The Concom FB community could vote on the pictures by liking them. A bet lot of people would participate.

May I please suggest the picture has to do with any aspect of conservation (like wildlife, fauna, riverscape, landscape, etc) and has to be taken in Exeter, NH.

You could set a date to change banners as the seasons change. This one being 06-21-19.

The bear is back on Newfields Rd. He was seen last week. There was one photographed near the Emerson Property this week on FB. I bet the same one.

Hope all is well.

David O'Hearn



Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov>

Raynes Farm Invasive Creep and mowing a recreational trail

1 message

David O'Hearn <david.ohearn@sunteckts.com>

Tue, Jun 4, 2019 8

To: Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov>

Cc: Sally Ward <ward31@comcast.net>, "Piskovitz, Todd" <tpisk@comcast.net>

Hi Kristen,

I was at Harrington's Sunday servicing the tractors after the owners marathon field mowing. This was my view from the back of the

Autumn olive is in full flower now. The white blossoms made the invasive woodland creep stand out at the Raynes Farm as compared to Harrington's where there has been an effort to control and cut it back. Please see the photos attached.

Those pictures were taken along the fence line and show how far the creep had made it into Harrington's field. We used all the brush to create cottontail rabbit habitat. The brush is placed inside the wood line and is continuous allowing the rabbits and small mammals to travel without exposure to predators. It has been so successful this is one of the places I collected rabbit poo for the study last winter.

In the picture below the cleared wood line on the right used to look just like you see at the Raynes Farm across the cattails.

In the time I have been associated with Exeter Concom as a contributor and member there has always been a high sense of urgency to remove invasive plants from Exeter property. The effort at Henderson-Swasey has been commendable but unseen to the public.

Lots of time has been spent by ConCom to promote the Raynes Farm and its recreational values. The extent of the woodland creep on the Farm will require money for manpower and machinery to combat.

Hopefully you are getting requests to use the Farm. It would be nice to set up an account where users could donate money towards removing the creep. A proposal could also be posted to the ConCom FB page where the general public could donate.

I know the barn is in need of restoration. The price tag is very lofty. Taxpayer approval would be needed and time would need to be spent in applying for grants.

Removing the invasive creep from Raynes Farm would be good PR for Exeter. People could see their donations at work due to the proximity of Rte. 85.

While my company specializes in this type of work that is not my intent. It is the visual aspect that was so easy to see since the autumn olive was in flower and the extent it has grown into the Raynes field.

I hope this could be a topic of future Raynes Farm committee meetings.

On mowing a recreational trail at Raynes Farm, Fields of Dreams would like to donate the tractor and time. The brush hog is five feet wide, perfect trail size. If Daren Davis were to approve I could make a swing around the field once a month or so to keep open a walking path for the public.

My priorities have always been geared towards being a good steward of land. Land gives so much back to me being an active sportsman. I thank you for your support and hope you take us up on the trail mowing offer.

Please bring these proposals to the Commission

Very respectfully yours.

David O'Hearn

Exeter, NH



2 attachments



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6498K



IMG_1977.jpg
6484K