



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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www.exeternh.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting

The Exeter Conservation Commission will in the Nowak Room, Exeter Town Offices
at 10 Front Street, Exeter on **Tuesday, April 12th, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

Action Items:

1. Expenditure Request - NH Association of Conservation Commissions Dues
2. Committee Reports
 - a. Property Management
 - i. McDonnell Gate Now Operational with Volunteer Support
 - ii. Gateway Deed Update
 - iii. Riverwoods Forest Stewardship Plan Presentation
 - iv. Cooperative Middle School Water Quality Project
 - b. Trails
 - i. Jolly Rand Trail Maintenance
 - c. Outreach Events
 - i. Geocaching Event Planning (Kyle)
 - ii. Alewife Festival
3. Approval of Minutes: March 8th, 2021 Meeting
4. Correspondence
5. Other Business
6. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (5/10/22), Submission Deadline (4/29/22)

Andrew Koff

Exeter Conservation Commission

Posted April 8th, 2022 Exeter Town Website www.exeternh.gov and Town Office kiosk.

ZOOM Public Access Information:

Virtual Meetings can be watched on Channel 22 and on Exeter TV's Facebook and YouTube pages.

To participate in public comment, click this link: <https://exeternh.zoom.us/j/89759377042>

To participate via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 897 5937 7042

Please join the meeting with your full name if you want to speak.

Use the "Raise Hand" button to alert the chair you wish to speak. On the phone, press *9.

More instructions for how to participate can be found here: <https://www.exeternh.gov/townmanager/virtual-town-meetings>

Contact us at extvg@exeternh.gov or 603-418-6425 with any technical issues.

**TOWN OF EXETER
PLANNING DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: April 7, 2022
To: Conservation Commission Board Members
From: Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner
Subject: April 12th Conservation Commission Meeting

Happy Spring! My sincere apologies for not attending this meeting. Nancy Belanger is now your Select Board rep and will be in attendance. This is Toms last meeting. Tom thank you for your time on the board. Sorry to miss your last meeting!

1. Expenditure Approval:

NHACC is our statewide organization that supports and provides resources to NH Conservation Commissions. They offer educational programming, provide organizational guidance, and advocate on behalf of conservation commission to the state legislature. Annual dues for 2022 are \$900.

Suggested Motion:

_____ Approve the expenditure of \$900 from the Dues category of the Conservation Commission Town budget.

2. Property Management

a. McDonnell Conservation Area

We again have volunteer support to open and close the gates to this property. Dianne Arnheim, Laura and Brian McSweeney, Bruce White, Cheyne Venturini and David Kovar. Thank you again to them for their support.

b. Gateway Deed Status Report

At the 6/9/20 CC meeting you authorized Drew to approve the revised deed on your behalf following review from the subcommittee (Carlos, Bill, Drew) which has been completed. The deed has now been reviewed by NHDES (Lori Somer) as it provides partial wetland mitigation, our legal counsel and a final document will be going to the Select Board for signature on 4/11 for signature. I will be there to present it but anyone is welcome to join.

c. Riverwoods Forest Stewardship Plan Presentation

The Riverwoods Forest/Land Management Committee has worked with Peter Farrell to develop a forest stewardship plan. They have invited members of the conservation commission to join them for a presentation on the plan **Thursday, April 14, 7:30 PM in Boulders Hall**. It would be good to have some CC representation at the presentation that night. I plan to be there but have a 5:30 meeting prior to it so I may be running a smidge late. *Note: the Riverwoods easement does require the CC to approve a forest management plan prior to harvest. This presentation does not replace the need for formal CC approval as that would occur at a CC official meeting.*

d. Cooperative Middle School Water Quality Project

I am again presenting the water quality program to CMS students. They learn about stormwater pollution, the role of wetland buffers, and how to sample for water quality. ESRLAC's Eric Turer will help me on the 2nd day.

3. Trails

a. Jolly Rand Trail Maintenance

Drew will share details on a persistently wet/muddy section of the trail.

4. Outreach

a. Geocaching Event Planning

Kyle had expressed interest in organizing a public event around geocaching.

b. Alewife Festival

- The last day to submit a prediction for when the alewives will run and be entered into a drawing to win a kayak is 4/22. Details [HERE](#).
- Alewife Mascot Costume submissions will be accepted through May 6th. Details [HERE](#).
- Event t-shirts are available for purchase now, and are printed on-demand. They take 2-3 weeks to arrive so act quick if you want one for the festival. Details [HERE](#).
- Festival is 5/14 from 9-1. Schedule and all details available [HERE](#).

For CC we talked about bringing an Enviroscape model to demonstrate stormwater pollution and the importance of buffers, having trail maps on hand, and a sea level rise walk in Swasey Parkway.

Some presentations include:

- NH Fish presentation – Mike Dionne NHFG
- Mascot Runway walk & Mascot Costume winner announcement
- Predict the Alewife Run Kayak winner announcement
- Fish Net making demo Denise & Paul Pouliot INHCC.
- Electric Vehicle display, Community Choice Power materials
- Tree Committee Big Tree Scavenger Hunt contest winner & native tree info
- Pollinator Pathways NH native plant materials
- Junk mail reduction display-PEA students
- Recycle Right, Waste Reduction, rain barrel DIY kit– DPW
- Healthy Lawns, Pet Waste Pledge, (Kristen or waiting to hear from J. Peterson)
- Film Festival
- Kayak tour
- Free beer from Sawbelly with purchase of Alewife pint glass
- And more!

5. Other Business:

- a. [4/11-4/22 Town Wide Clean Up](#). Supplies at DPW
- b. DPW offering [upcycled rain barrels](#) with donation to St. Vincent de Paul.
- c. Planning Board passed site plan requirements for Electric Vehicle Readiness in developments. (5% of spaces in multi-family, 2% in commercial)
- d. [Mr. Fox Composting](#) at transfer station diverted 16.5K pounds! Of food waste from landfill last year. [Helpsy Textile](#) recycling collected 976lbs in Feb!
- e. PEA Students gave a [Junk Mail reduction presentation](#) with resources.
- f. Dover to host board education climate program modeled from we did here.
- g. [Raynes RFP](#) notice is published. Site visit scheduled April 15th. Submissions due 5/2.

Exeter Conservation Commission
March 8, 2022
Nowack Room
Draft Minutes

Call to Order

1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)

Present at tonight’s meeting were by roll call, Chair Andrew Koff, Vice-Chair Trevor Mattera (electronically), Nick Campion, Conor Madison, David Short, Kristen Osterwood (remotely), Bill Campbell, Alternate (remotely until 8:45 PM), and Don Clement, Alternate (until 8:45 PM).

Staff Present: Natural Resources Planner Kristen Murphy

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and activated Alternate Don Clement.

2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)

Mr. Koff noted there were no members of the public present.

Action Items

1. Review of a Shoreland Protection District Conditional Use Permit located at 35 High Street, 8 Gilman Lane and 10 Gilman Lane for a proposed Faculty Neighborhood development project. (Tax Map Parcels 71-117, 71-118, 71-119) (Agent – Cory Belden, Altus Engineering)

Cory Belden of Altus Engineering and Heather Taylor from Philips Exeter Academy presented the application for a Shoreland Protection District Conditional use Permit for three parcels on High Street and Gilman Lane. Mr. Belden noted that they are seeking to provide additional faculty housing by merging two lots with a portion of an existing lot. Gilman Lane will be rerouted and realigned with the traffic signal on High Street and there will be a sidewalk adjacent to the new road which will be a private road. 8 Gilman Lane and the back of 35 High Street will be removed. There will be four duplexes and two single family units totaling 13 residential units on the new lot where 8 exist now.

Mr. Belden noted the design will have multiple reviews. They have been before the Historic District for approval on February 17th. The Zoning Board of Adjustment reviewed and approved the setback variance in December. The River Advisory Committee and ESLAC will review and the TRC review for tomorrow. The state approvals have been applied for NHDES Shoreland CUP and Alteration of Terrain and should take about 50 days. The application will be going before the Planning Board.

Mr. Belden noted the difference in calculations of impervious areas which are currently 18% and will increase to 27.5%. The existing impervious has no stormwater treatment and treatment is being proposed for the new design with a rain garden collection system with an outfall to the Exeter River.

45 There is an existing pipe in poor condition which will be replaced at the outfall in the same location. He
46 has had conversations with the Town Engineering Department. Five years ago the sewer pipe collapsed
47 and he proposes avoiding digging down 15' in the center of the road. There is a slight increase in flows
48 exiting but will still result in a reduction of runoff. The entire site is within the 300' setback. There will
49 be no change to the existing wooded area long the riverbank or behind the Observatory. Lighting will be
50 minimized to two street lights at intersections and standard residential lighting on building exteriors.

51

52 Ms. Osterwood asked if there would be access for Unitil to the substation and Mr. Belden indicated he
53 had initial discussions with them and while they do not have deeded access will allow them access by
54 Gilman lane as well as the Public Works.

55

56 Ms. Osterwood asked about energy sustainability efforts and capture of rain water. Mr. Belden noted
57 there will be porous pavers in the patio areas. Ms. Taylor noted they will be using electric, no gas.
58 Geothermal was looked at but not suitable. Mr. Belden noted with the traffic of heavy vehicles passing
59 through it is not recommended to use permeable pavement.

60

61 Mr. Koff asked about the rain garden. Mr. Belden described the specifications with 18" filter material,
62 sand, loam and mulch, ¾" pea stone and 18" of gravel as storage area and a raised underdrain for
63 significant capture.

64

65 Mr. Clement expressed concerns with nitrogen and phosphorous close to the river and potential
66 pollutants which may impact the Alewife run, and runoff from vehicles in the parking areas. Mr. Belden
67 noted there was previously no treatment and the new design will be providing treatment.

68

69 Ms. Osterwood asked what year storm event is the design calculated for and Mr. Belden responded that
70 it is a 50-year storm design. Ms. Osterwood noted the ground is frequently saturated and questioned
71 how much it would absorb. Mr. Belden noted the grade is being built up a bit. Mr. Koff noted the rain
72 garden will not infiltrate flow into the ground. Mr. Belden noted there would be better infiltration on
73 the upper side and second rain garden by the Observatory.

74

75 Ms. Murphy noted that the town is under pressure to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loads. Rain
76 gardens don't perform as well. The Observatory area has the space for a gravel wetland. Ms. Murphy
77 expressed concerns with irrigation and the greater potential for nitrogen runoff and recommends it be
78 part of the plan. Mr. Clement agreed. Mr. Koff noted the goal should be to maximize nitrogen removal.
79 The site is poorly drained to begin with.

80

81 Mr. Clement asked about the upgrade to the storm drain and whether there will be gas and oil
82 separators. Mr. Belden described the catch basins, sump and eliminator hoods.

83

84 Mr. Clement asked the flood elevation and Mr. Belden noted it is 27.7.

85

86 Ms. Murphy asked about modifying the plan to switch the two buildings around so there will be less of a
87 footprint within the 150' buffer. Mr. Belden described the existing duplex and proposed reduction.

88

89 Mr. Clement asked about reducing the width of the private road and Mr. Belden indicated they would
90 be amenable to that provided following town regulations for the number of units, to 14 or 16' width.

91
92 Mr. Clement asked about snow storage and Mr. Belden noted there is a lot of opportunity at the ends
93 and between buildings.

94
95 Mr. Belden concluded that the entire site could use this revitalization and has the support of two
96 neighbors. The riverbank is being preserved and greenspace provided with the rain garden and
97 plantings along the bank and there are improvements for pedestrian access safety with the sidewalk
98 along the road and vehicle safety with the rerouting of Gilman Lane to the intersection which has a
99 traffic light.

100
101 Mr. Koff reviewed the criteria for granting the Shoreland CUP. He noted he is concerned plans may
102 change. Mr. Mattera agreed with Mr. Clement's concerns about not effecting surface water quality and
103 providing the purest runoff possible. Mr. Mattera added that he likes the treatment which will be much
104 more positive. Mr. Belden noted that low nitrogen fertilizers could be a condition in the annual
105 stormwater maintenance manual. Ms. Murphy noted those are prohibited in regulations in that area
106 without a waiver. They could apply for one with the Planning Board to grown and stabilize but not for
107 continued use.

108
109 Mr. Koff noted the arial showed a lot of grass and would like to move away from irrigating. Mr. Short
110 noted if the site is prepared properly with enough topsoil deep enough there would be no need.

111
112 Mr. Koff agreed that reducing the width of the proposed roadway would reduce impervious volumes
113 and questioned whether there was a more effective design to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus. Mr.
114 Short agreed the Commission should recommend the optimal method.

115
116 Mr. Koff noted there is no sewer connection or on-site septic, so those don't apply. The NHB Survey
117 indicated no wildlife impact . They are improving the site in many ways.

118
119 MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned to recommend approval of the Shoreland Conditional Use Permit
120 with the following conditions:

- 121
- 122 1. Applicant to install stormwater drainage/filtration system which will best reduce nitrogen and
123 phosphorous.
 - 124
 - 125 2. Applicant will narrow the width of the internal private road.
 - 126
 - 127 3. Owner/applicant to apply for a waiver for initial fertilizer use to **establish** new landscaping.
 - 128
 - 129 4. Owner/applicant will review necessity of irrigation system.

130
131 Mr. Campion seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Osterwood – aye, Mattera – aye,
132 Clement – aye, Madison – aye, Koff – aye and Campion – aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.

133

134 Mr. Koff noted the Commission will draft a letter to the Planning Board. Mr. Clement noted ERLAC is
135 meeting on the 22nd.

136

137

138 2. Alewife Festival Planning Discussion and Expenditure Approval

139

140 Ms. Murphy noted the festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th at Founders Park with a rain date of
141 May 21st. The Commission is seeking to identify members who will participate and refine the content,
142 information and/or presentation to be made. Mr. Koff noted that Ms. Eberhardt had expressed an
143 interest in demonstrating sea level rise at Swasey Parkway and trail maps can be on hand. Ms. Murphy
144 noted there is a possibility of a King tide on that date, and it would work out well. It may be a good date
145 to launch the trail passport if the posts can be installed.

146

147 Ms. Murphy reviewed the activities taking place at the library from 9-1 and in the Children's Room.
148 There will be a story walk from *We are the Water Protectors*. NH Fish & Game will participate. There
149 will be a Parks & Recreation contest to guess the date of the Alewife run. Greg Bisson will announce
150 winners with the prize potentially to be a kayak. Exeter TV is looking for mascot designs for a mascot to
151 appear at public events. There will be tables, music (Green Heron from 12-1), a food truck and ESLRA is
152 leading a paddle. There may be an environmental film in the evening. The Energy Committee will be
153 presenting information on e-vehicles. Ginny from the Tree Committee will be presenting for Pollinator
154 Pathways concerning native plants and there may be a seed swap. Public works will be presenting
155 information on recycling, fertilizer and lawncare. Great Bay Water Keepers, Girls Scouts, ERLAC and PEA
156 students are expected to attend and there will be rain barrels for sale. Sawbellies will be participating
157 hopefully with glasses with a logo and potentially a free beer coupon. The event will be single-use
158 plastics free and the environmental footprint of the event will be calculated. The Commission thanked
159 Sarah Koff for assisting with the event flyers. Mr. Koff noted the event is not yet advertised. Ms.
160 Murphy will post on ExeterTV, Facebook, the newspaper and the town website.

161

162 Ms. Murphy noted the paddle event at the town launch may be popular and perhaps there should be
163 pre-registration. The Commission will be looking for help from members with general setup. Mr. Koff
164 noted there will be another planning meeting soon and that he is available to help. Mr. Campion
165 offered his assistance as well.

166

167 Mr. Clement and Mr. Campbell departed the meeting at 8:45 PM.

168

169 Mr. Mattera recommended an enviroscape model. Ms. Murphy noted the DOT sent a trailer sized
170 model one year and it may be worth reaching out. Mr. Koff will contact people.

171

172 Ms. Murphy noted there is \$2,050 available if the budget passes for outreach engagement and would
173 like to approve up to \$400 from the Conservation Land Administration fund for the event expenses.

174

175 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned to approve expenditure of up to \$400 from the Conservation Land
176 Administration Fund for the outreach and engagement expense of the Alewife Festival. Mr. Mattera

177 seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Osterwood – aye, Mattera – aye, Campion – aye, Koff –
178 aye, Madison – aye and Short – aye. The motion passed 6-0-0.

179

180 Mr. Koff noted the Commission will be asked shortly to produce the Green Minute to be posted on
181 ExeterTV for Earth Day in April. He noted it would be a great opportunity to advertise the Alewife
182 Festival and asked that members reach out to him and Ms. Murphy with any other ideas.

183

184 3. State Shoreland Permit Review Process discussion

185

186 4. Committee Reports

187

188 a. Property Management

189

190 Ms. Murphy noted if the warrant passes for Raynes Farm an RFP Draft will be prepared.

191

192 Ms. Murphy is working on a dashboard for conservation easement monitoring which will include
193 a database for street tree monitoring.

194

195 b. Trails

196

197 Ms. Murphy noted that parking lots are full and the town website has lots mapped. She
198 encouraged the public to look for alternate parking areas rather than parking along a busy road.

199

200 Mr. Koff asked about posting the trails due to muddy conditions and Mr. Short is keeping an eye
201 on that and will communicate potential closures via Facebook and Fort Rock Riders. He has
202 some signs he can post on the trailheads if necessary.

203

204 c. Outreach Events

205

206 i. Open Barn Day at Raynes Farm

207

208 Ms. Murphy noted Open Barn Day was held two weeks ago and went well with a good
209 turnout.

210

211 ii. Full Moon Snowshoe at Irvine/Exeter Country Club 2/12 6:30 PM

212

213 Mr. Koff noted the Snowshoe walk was great and Mr. Mattera and Ms. Eberhardt were
214 there.

215

216 5. Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2022 Meeting

217

218 Mr. Koff recommended edits.

219

220 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to approve the February 8, 2022 minutes as amended. Mr. Short
221 seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Osterwood – aye, Mattera – aye, Madison – aye, Koff –
222 aye, Campion – aye and Short – aye. The motion passed 6-0-0.

223

224 6. Correspondence

225

226

227 7. Other Business

228

229

230 8. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (3/8/22), Submission Deadline (2/25/22)

231

232 Adjournment

233

234 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM seconded by Mr. Short. A vote was
235 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

236

237 Respectfully submitted,

238

239 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

240 Via Exeter TV

241

242 This meeting was also presented virtually Zoom ID 864 0219 1125