



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, November 8th, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.**

***** ELECTION DAY*****

Vote early. Polls will likely close before meeting ends.

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

Action Items:

1. Draft Floodplain Development Ordinance Amendment
2. Committee Reports
 - a. Property Management
 - i. Seasonal Closure of McDonnell Conservation Area Gate Effective: 10/28
 - ii. Conservation Land Mowing & Recommendations for Next Year
 - iii. Raynes Farm Project
 - iv. Griset-Mendez Property Update
 - v. Amundsen Easement Grantor Request
 - b. Trails
 - i. Trail Committee Meeting Update
 - c. Outreach Events
 - i. 9/25 Kayak Program Report, 10/21 SkyWatch Report
 - d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree)
3. Approval of Minutes: September 13th, 2022 Meeting
4. Correspondence
5. Other Business
6. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (12/13/22), Submission Deadline (12/2/22)

Andrew Koff

Exeter Conservation Commission

Posted November 4th, 2022 Exeter Town Website www.exeternh.gov and Town Office kiosk.

**TOWN OF EXETER
PLANNING DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: Nov 4th, 2022
To: Conservation Commission Board Members
From: Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner
Subject: Nov 8th Conservation Commission Meeting

Draft Floodplain Ordinance

I have been working with RPC through a technical assistance contract to develop revisions to the floodplain zoning ordinance. The goal is to raise the required amount of freeboard above base flood elevation for new construction or substantial improvements. Currently it is 1' for residential, and require commercial and manufactured housing to be at or above base flood elevation. We are proposing to increase all categories to 2' above base flood elevation. The second component is we are creating an advisory Sea Level Rise Risk Area. This would apply to the portion of town beyond the FEMA flood hazard areas that is at risk to 4' sea level rise plus storm surge. In this area, we recommend (but do not require) following the regulations for FEMA flood hazard areas. Your packet contains a draft of the ordinance, and maps of the areas it would apply to.

McDonnell Seasonal Gate Closure:

- Following past practices, we have closed the gate at the end of Oct. It will remain closed through the end of March. Parking is still possible on Court Street and there is space for 2 cars to fit in front of the gate.
- Thank you to our gate stewards this year: Dianne Arnheim, Bruce White, Brian and Laura Mcsweeney, and Cheyne Venturini.

Mowing:

- David has completed mowing for the 2022 season. He recommends mowing the full field at Morrissette in 2023 to reduce the woody growth that is occurring.
- He also cleared the brush on the Stone property off Powdermill Rd. He found significant woody growth and recommends 2 early cuts (June and Aug) in 2023 to prevent re-sprouting of woody veg, then back to mowing/haying in 2024. He would charge \$975 each cut. We will need to find funding for this either by modifying what we use the Town allocated budget for or use conservation funds.

Correspondence (from last month)

- Sneed: Feel free to drive Holland Way and inspect for yourself. I do not recommend herbicides in this area as it is within the watershed for the Town's drinking water and adjacent to several wetlands and streams. Perhaps CC would form a work day? It does not appear to be an excessive amount of work for a group.
- Griset: NHDES did not have record of a wetland complaint for the RR Culvert replacement. In further correspondence, Brian Griset said his complaint was focused on RR ties. He asked I provide the attached information to the board. I did share views of the culvert before (from the NHDES ARM Mapper Site) and after (Grisets photos) and asked if a permit was issued (emergency or otherwise).

- Nelson Dr: An abutter asked about recent mowing on this property. I initially thought the barn was permitted by CUP but realized afterward that he removed that from his application and was issued a building permit for his home only. I sent him a letter clarifying what uses are permitted. **UPDATE – I met with the owner. He is hiring Patrick Seekamp to add native plants and remove invasive plants within the buffer area, with annual or biennial mowing to maintain wildflowers. I consider this a wildlife habitat improvement which is a permitted use for the area. I asked for a copy of the plan once developed for our records.
- Garrison Ln (not in packet, FYI): I have removed Private Land signs from the town-owned property boundary twice now. The most recent time I was notified of the sign by someone concerned about losing access to the area.

1 **Exeter Floodplain Development Ordinance Amendments**

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Existing Language
~~Language to be removed~~
Language to be added

7 **9.4 FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

8 **9.4.1** This ordinance, adopted pursuant to the authority of NH RSA §674:16, shall be known as
9 the Town of Exeter Floodplain Development Ordinance. The regulations in this ordinance shall
10 overlay and supplement the regulations in the Town of Exeter Zoning Ordinance, and shall be
11 considered part of the Zoning Ordinance for purposes of administration and appeals under state
12 law. If any provision of the Zoning Ordinance differs or appears to conflict with any provision of
13 the Zoning Ordinance or other ordinance or regulation, the provision imposing the greater
14 restriction or more stringent standard shall be controlling.

15 **9.4.2.** The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare;
16 minimize hazards to persons and property from flooding; to protect watercourses from
17 encroachment; and to maintain the capability of floodplains to retain and carry off floodwaters.

18 **9.4.2** The following regulations in this ordinance shall apply to all lands designated as special
19 flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its “Flood
20 Insurance Study for the county of Rockingham, NH” dated May 17, 2005 and January 29, 2021,
21 together with the associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps, dated May 17, 2005 and January 29,
22 2021 and associated amendments and revisions, which are declared to be a part of this ordinance
23 and are hereby incorporated by reference.

24 **9.4.3** Definition of Terms: The following definitions shall apply only to this Floodplain
25 Development Ordinance, and shall not be affected by, the provisions of any other ordinance of
26 the Town of Exeter.

- 27 A. Area of Special Flood Hazard: Land in the floodplain within the Town of Exeter
28 subject to a one-percent or greater possibility of flooding in any given year. The
29 area is designated on the FIRM as zone A and AE.
- 30 B. Base Flood: The flood having a one-percent possibility of being equaled or
31 exceeded in any given year.
- 32 C. Base Flood Elevation: The water surface elevation having a one percent
33 possibility of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- 34 D. Basement: Any area of a building having its floor sub-grade on all sides.
- 35 E. Building: see “Structure”
- 36 F. Development: Any man-made change to improve or unimproved real estate,
37 including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging,
38 filling, grading, paving, excavation, drilling operation, or storage of equipment or
39 materials.
- 40 G. FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 41 H. Flood or Flooding: A general and temporary condition of partial or complete
42 inundation of normally dry land areas from:
 - 43 1. The overflow of inland or tidal waters.

- 90 R. Manufactured Home: A structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is
91 built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent
92 foundation when connected to the required utilities. For floodplain management
93 purposes the term “manufactured home” includes park trailers, travel trailers, and
94 other similar vehicles placed on site for greater than 180 days. This includes
95 manufactured homes located in a manufactured home park or subdivision.
- 96 S. Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision: A parcel (or contiguous parcels) of
97 land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.
- 98 T. Mean Sea Level: The National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929,
99 North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988, or other datum, to which base
100 flood elevations shown on a community Flood Insurance Rate Map are
101 referenced.
- 102 U. New Construction: For the purposes of determining insurance rates, structures for
103 which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of an
104 initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974, whichever is later, and includes any
105 subsequent improvements to such structures. For floodplain management
106 purposes, new construction means structures for which the start of construction
107 commenced on or after the effective date of a flood plain management regulation
108 adopted by a community and includes any subsequent improvements to such
109 structures.
- 110 V. Recreational Vehicle: A vehicle which is:
- 111 1. Built on single chassis;
 - 112 2. 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal
113 projection;
 - 114 3. Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty
115 truck; and
 - 116 4. Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary
117 living quarters for recreational, camping, travel or seasonal use.
- 118 W. Regulatory Floodway: The channel of a river or other watercourse and the
119 adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood
120 without increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.
- 121 X. Special Flood Hazard Area: See “Area of Special Flood Hazard”.
- 122 Y. Start of Construction: Includes substantial improvements, and means the date the
123 building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair,
124 reconstruction, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the
125 permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent
126 construction of a structure on site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the
127 installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of
128 excavation; or the placement of manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent
129 construction does not include land preparation such as clearing, grading and
130 filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it
131 include excavation for a basement, footing, piers, or foundations or the erection
132 of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of
133 accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or
134 part of the main structure.

- 135 Z. Structure: For floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building,
136 including a gas or liquid storage tanks, that is principally above ground, as well
137 as a manufactured home.
- 138 AA. Substantial Damage: Damage of any origin sustained by a structure
139 whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damage condition would
140 equal or exceed fifty percent (50%) of the market value of the structure before
141 the damage occurred.
- 142 BB. Substantial Improvement: The combination of repairs, reconstruction, alteration,
143 or improvements to a structure in which the cumulative cost equals or exceeds
144 fifty percent (50%) of the market value of the structure. The market value of the
145 structure should equal:
- 146 1. The appraised value prior to the start of the initial repair or improvement,
147 or
 - 148 2. In the case of damage, the value of the structure prior to the damage
149 occurring.
- 150 For the purposes of this definition, “substantial improvement” is considered to
151 occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part
152 of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external
153 dimensions of the structure. This term includes structures which have incurred
154 substantial damage, regardless of actual repair work performed. The term does
155 not, however, include any project for improvement of a structure required to
156 comply with existing health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which are
157 solely necessary to assure safe living conditions or any alteration of a “historic
158 structure”, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued
159 designation as a “historic structure”.
- 160 CC. Violation: The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant
161 with the community’s flood plain management regulations. A structure or other
162 development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other
163 evidence of compliance required under this ordinance is presumed to be in
164 violation until such time as that documentation is provided.
- 165 DD. Water Surface Elevation: The height, in relation to the National
166 Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, North American Vertical Datum of
167 1988, (or other datum, where specified) of floods of various magnitudes and
168 frequencies in the floodplains.
- 169 EE. **Sea Level Rise Risk Areas: Areas within the town of Exeter projected to be**
170 **impacted by 4 feet of sea level rise plus a 1% annual chance flood event.**

171 **9.4.4 Permits:** The Building Inspector shall not grant a building permit until the applicant
172 certifies that all necessary permits have been received from those governmental agencies from
173 which approval is required by federal or state law, including Section 404 of the Federal Water
174 Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C.1334.

- 175 A. Building Permit Requirement: All proposed development in any special flood
176 hazard areas shall require a building permit. The applicant shall provide the
177 proposed elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor (including
178 basement) and include whether or not such structures contain a basement. If the
179 plans include flood-proofing, the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to
180 which the structure will be flood-proofed. If the development involves proposed

181 work on an existing structure, the applicant shall also provide a description of the
182 total costs of the proposed work including all materials and labor.

183 B. Building Permit Review: The Building Inspector shall review all building permit
184 applications for new construction or substantial improvements to determine
185 whether the proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding. If a
186 proposed building site is located in a special flood hazard area, all new
187 construction or substantial improvements shall:

- 188 1. Be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation,
189 collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from
190 hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;
- 191 2. Be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
- 192 3. Be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damages;
- 193 4. Be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air
194 conditioning equipment, and other service facilities that are designed
195 and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating
196 within the components during conditions of flooding.

197

198 **9.4.5 New or Replacement Water and Sewer Systems:** Where new or replacement water
199 and sewer systems (including on-site systems) are proposed in a special flood hazard area the
200 applicant shall provide the Building Inspector with assurance that these systems will be designed
201 to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and discharges from the
202 systems into flood waters, and on-site waste disposal systems will be located to avoid impairment
203 to them or contamination from them during periods of flooding.

204 **9.4.6 New Structure Requirements:** For all new or substantially improved structures located
205 in Zones A and AE, the applicant shall furnish the following information to the Building
206 Inspector, prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy:

207 A. A completed and certified copy of an Elevation Certificate that includes the as-
208 built elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the lowest floor of the structure
209 and whether or not the structure has a basement.

210 B. If a non-residential structure includes dry floodproofing, a completed and
211 certified copy of the Floodproofing Certificate for Non-Residential Structures
212 that includes the as-built elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the
213 structure was dry floodproofed and certification of floodproofing.

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215 The Building Inspector shall maintain for public inspection and shall furnish
216 such information upon request.

217 **9.4.7 Development Along Watercourses:**

218 A. In riverine situations, prior to the alteration or relocation of a watercourse the
219 applicant for such authorization shall notify the Wetlands Bureau of the New
220 Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and submit copies of such
221 notification to the Building Inspector, in addition to the copies required by NH
222 RSA §482-A:3. Further, the applicant shall be required to submit copies of said

- 223 notification to those adjacent communities as determined by the Building
224 Inspector, including notice of all scheduled hearings before the Wetlands Bureau.
225 B. The applicant shall submit to the Building Inspector, certification provided by a
226 registered professional engineer, assuring that the flood carrying capacity of an
227 altered or relocated watercourse can and will be maintained.
228 C. Along watercourses with a designated Regulatory Floodway no encroachments,
229 including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other
230 development are allowed within the floodway unless it has been demonstrated
231 through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with
232 standard engineering practices that the proposed encroachment would not result
233 in any increase in flood levels within the community during the base flood
234 discharge.
235 D. Along watercourses that have not had a Regulatory Floodway designated, no new
236 construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill)
237 shall be permitted within zone AE on the FIRM, unless it is demonstrated by the
238 applicant that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when
239 combined with all existing and anticipated development, will not increase the
240 water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within
241 the community.
242 E. In zone A, the building Inspector shall obtain review, and reasonably utilize any
243 floodway data available from Federal, State, or other sources as criteria for
244 requiring that development meet the following floodway requirement:
245 “No encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements,
246 and other development are allowed within the floodway that would result in any
247 increase in flood levels within the community during the base flood discharge.”

248 **9.4.8 Base Flood Elevation:**

- 249 A. In special flood hazard areas, the Building Inspector shall determine the base
250 flood elevation in the following order of precedence according to the data
251 available:
252 1. In zone AE refer to the base flood elevation data provided in the
253 community’s Flood Insurance Study and accompanying FIRM.
254 2. In Zone A the Building Inspector shall obtain, review, and reasonably
255 utilize any base flood elevation data available from any federal, state or
256 other source including data submitted for development proposals
257 submitted to the community (i.e. subdivisions, site approvals).
258 3. In Zone A where the base flood elevation is not available, the base flood
259 elevation shall be at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade.
260 B. The Building Inspector’s base flood elevation, determination will be used as
261 criteria for requiring in zones A and AE that:
262 1. All new construction or substantial improvement of residential structures
263 have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated at least ~~two feet one~~
264 ~~foot~~ above the base flood elevation.
265 2. That all new construction or substantial improvement of non-residential
266 structures have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated at least

- 267 two feet ~~to or~~ above the base flood elevation; or together with attendant
268 utility and sanitary facilities, shall
- 269 a. Be flood-proofed so that below the base flood elevation the
270 structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to
271 the passage of water;
 - 272 b. Have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic
273 and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy; and
 - 274 c. Be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect
275 that the design and methods of construction are in accordance
276 with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions
277 of this article;
- 278 3. Recreational vehicles placed on site within Zones A and AE shall either:
- 279 a. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days;
 - 280 b. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or;
 - 281 c. Meet all standards of Section 9.4.8.(B)(4) of this ordinance.
- 282 4. All manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved within
283 special flood hazard areas shall be elevated on a permanent foundation at
284 least two feet ~~such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or~~
285 above the base flood elevation; and be securely anchored to resist
286 flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may
287 include, but are not limited to, use of over-the top or frame ties to ground
288 anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable state and local
289 anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces;
- 290 5. For all new construction and substantial improvements, fully enclosed
291 areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding are permitted
292 provided they meet the following requirements:
- 293 a. The enclosed area is unfinished or flood resistant, useable
294 solely for the parking of vehicles, building access or storage;
 - 295 b. The area is not a basement;
 - 296 c. Shall be designated to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood
297 forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of
298 floodwater. Designs for meeting this requirement must either
299 be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or
300 must meet or exceed the following minimum criteria: A
301 minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less
302 than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area
303 subject to flooding shall be provided. The bottom of all
304 openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.
305 Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other
306 coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic
307 entry or exit of floodwater.

308 **9.4.9 Variances and Appeals:**

- 309 A. Any order, requirement, decision, or determination of the Building Inspector made under
310 this ordinance may be appealed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as set forth in NH
311 RSA §676:5.

- 312 B. If the applicant, upon appeal, requests a variance as authorized by NH RSA §674:33, I
313 (b), the applicant shall have the burden of showing in addition to the usual variance
314 standards under state law:
- 315 1. That the variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional
316 threats to public safety, or extraordinary public expense.
 - 317 2. That if the requested variance is for activity within a designated
318 regulatory floodway, no increase in flood levels during the base flood
319 discharge will result.
 - 320 3. That the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood
321 hazard, to afford relief.
- 322 C. The Zoning Board of Adjustment shall notify the applicant in writing that:
- 323 1. The issuance of a variance to construct below the base level will result in
324 increased premium rates for flood insurance, and
 - 325 2. Such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and
326 property.
- 327 Such notification shall be maintained with a record of all variance
328 actions.
- 329 D. The community shall:
- 330 1. Maintain a record of all variance actions, including their justification for
331 their issuance, and
 - 332 2. Report such variances issued in its annual or biennial report submitted to
333 FEMA’s Federal Insurance Administrator.

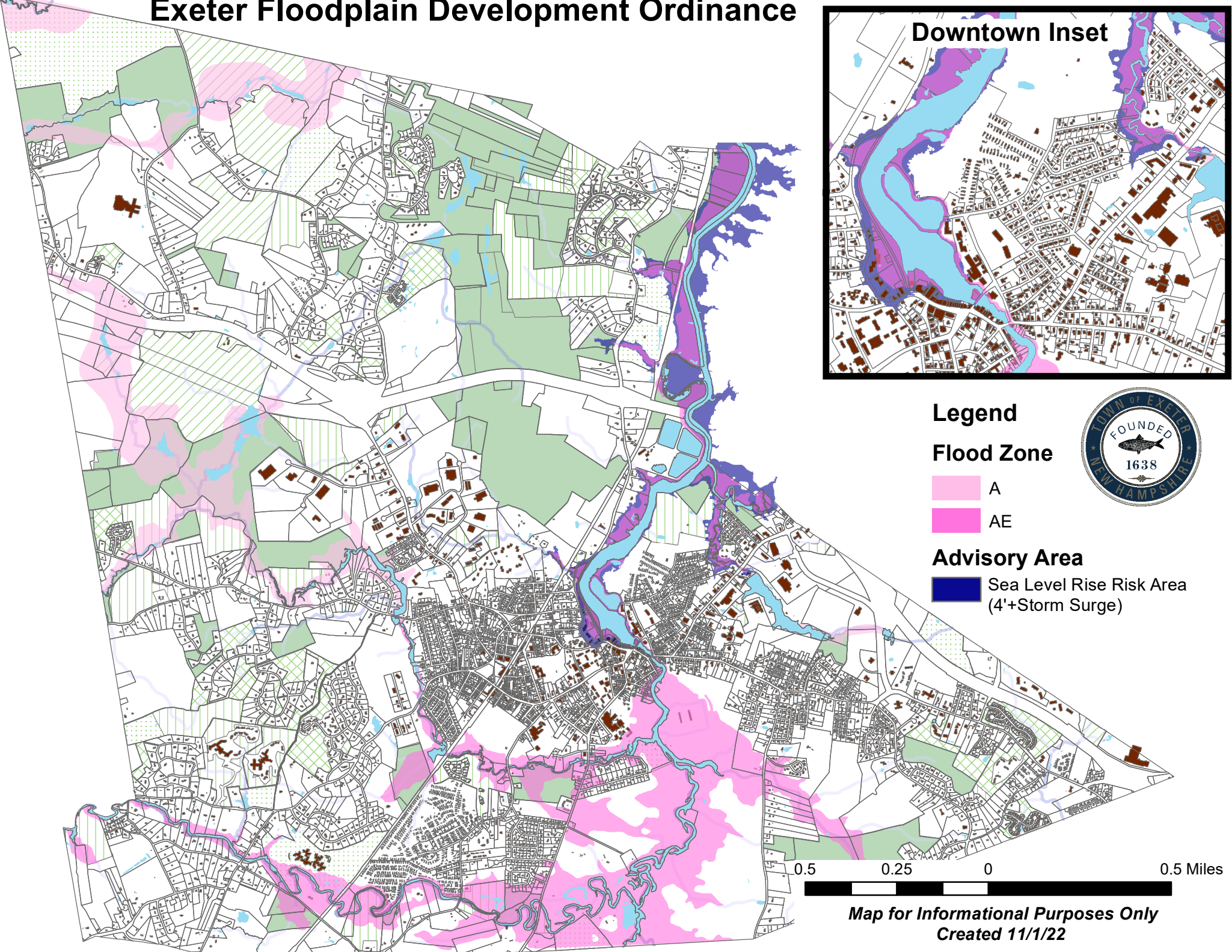
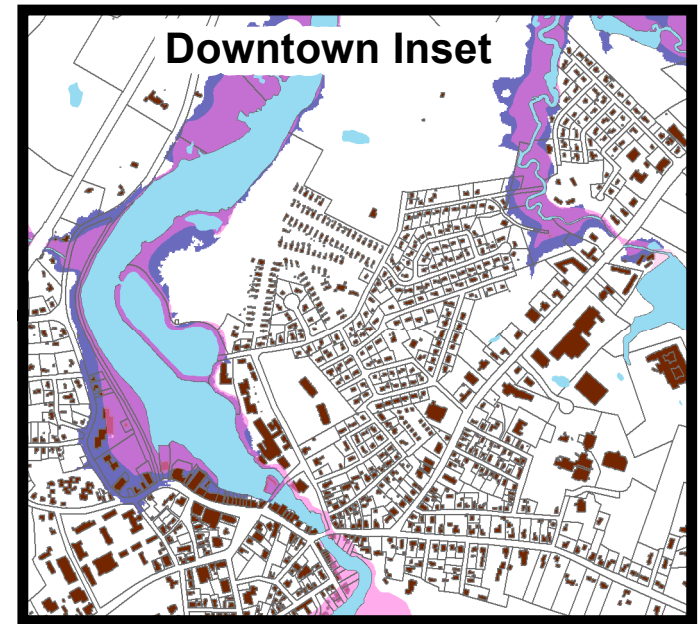
334 9.5 Sea Level Rise (SLR) Risk Areas

335 As part of New Hampshire’s Coastal Watershed and the Great Bay Estuary, portions of Exeter are
336 vulnerable to sea level rise impacts including increased flooding from coastal storms, riverbank flooding
337 and erosion. The town’s Climate Risk in the Seacoast Vulnerability Assessment (C-RiSe) conducted by
338 the Rockingham Planning Commission in 2017 identified several areas in town likely to be impacted by
339 increased flooding under future projections for sea level rise. These areas may be subject to increased
340 flood damage and as base flood elevations change over time, may be added to a FEMA special flood
341 hazard areas in the future. The map titled *Advisory Sea Level Rise Risk Areas for the Town of Exeter*,
342 dated October 2022, identifies areas in town projected to be impacted by four feet of sea level rise plus a
343 1% annual chance flood event (sea level rise scenarios based on [The New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk
344 Summary Part 1: Science](#)) The Exeter SLR Risk Areas are intended to be an advisory, non-binding part of
345 this ordinance for the purpose of educating landowners of the potential risks to property and to encourage
346 more stringent building and design standards for development within SLR risk areas.

347 The town of Exeter recommends (but does not require) that landowners, homeowners, developers, and
348 any parties seeking to build in lands located within the designated SLR Risk Areas as shown on map
349 titled *Advisory Sea Level Rise Risk Areas for the Town of Exeter*, but not in a special flood hazard area,
350 review the provisions of this floodplain development ordinance and apply them proactively to
351 construction and development projects as applicable.

352 Where base flood elevation is not available in the SLR risk areas, applicants are advised to determine the
353 flood elevation by adding at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade to the building footprint.

Exeter Floodplain Development Ordinance



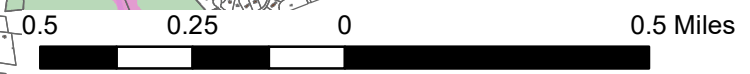
Legend

Flood Zone

- A
- AE

Advisory Area

- Sea Level Rise Risk Area (4'+Storm Surge)



Map for Informational Purposes Only
Created 11/1/22

Exeter Conservation Commission
September 13, 2022
Nowak Room
Exeter Town Offices
10 Front Street
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, Dave Short, Nick Campion, Alyson Eberhardt, Don Clement, Alternate, and Kyle Welch, Alternate

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and indicated Alternates Don Clement and Kyle Welch would be active.

2. Public Comment (7:00 PM)

Mr. Koff asked if there were any questions or comments from the public related to non-agenda matters and there were none.

Action Items

1. Management of Griset-Mendez Conservation Parcel (Tax Map 81/53) with regard to undersized railroad culvert, plans for water level management, no hunting posting (Brian Griset)

Brian Griset appeared before the Commission to give a history of the litigation and court order in 2008 relative to the Little River – Scanlon Brook area shown on the map. Railroad ties were dumped in the wetlands, including prime wetlands and the Court ordered NH DES to supervise cleanup.

Mr. Griset raised concerns over allegations he has had since that order which include temporary placement of railroad ties and more railroad tie replacement in 2019. Mr. Griset has since filed an email complaint with NH DES including email correspondence and photos shared with Ms. Murphy and has not had a response.

Mr. Griset alleged a stone box culvert was replaced without permit with a pitched drain and no retaining wall, created an elevation change of 2.5’ higher, changing the hydrology. He noted that while the Railroad is involved his research found that they must comply with local land use and environmental laws.

44 Mr. Griset cited issues with beaver management policies which Public Works have stopped. Mr.
45 Griset noted he would like the Town to adopt a policy similar to GZA and UNH Merrimack Policy. He
46 would like to see the policy extend to trail systems and drainage areas with flowing water. He noted
47 people are building dams to raise water levels which is illegal and against state law. This
48 information should be on the Town website. Mr. Clement noted any policy would have to go to the
49 Select Board. Mr. Koff noted the beaver deceiver device on Town Forest property is not managed
50 by the Commission. Ms. Murphy reviewed the oversight of the Commission which includes wetland
51 permits and management of conservation land. Ms. Murphy acknowledged his allegation that the
52 Town may have left silt fence behind.

53

54 Mr. Clement recommended that staff contact NH DES to find out the status of the complaint to see
55 action and follow up.

56

57 Mr. Griset raised concerns about posting for no hunting with the season beginning in a couple of
58 days. The signs out there now have his name on them and should be replaced with the
59 Commission's contact information.

60

61 Mr. Griset raised concerns with the stipulations of the deed and signage rules and locations relevant
62 to trails and trail buffers of 100.' He requested the trails being constructed have access blocked
63 until signs can be put up.

64

65 Mr. Clement asked the status of the proposed legislation prohibiting Towns to ban discharge of
66 firearms on Town property and Ms. Murphy indicated the bill died.

67

68 Mr. Koff noted the Commission would work on signage and posting and check out the trail.

69

70 2. Lamprey River Advisory Committee – Presentation and Request for Exeter Representative (Therese
71 Thompson)

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73 Therese Thompson appeared on behalf of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee. She noted there
74 are 14 Towns on the watershed, and she is seeking representatives to serve on the Committee from
75 each Town. Each Town can have up to four representatives. Ms. Thompson showed the LRAC
76 website and talked about funding and grants. She noted they meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 7 PM in
77 Lee at the public safety complex. There is a FAQ sheet on the website telling how to join.

78

79 Mr. Mattera asked the responsibilities of a member and Ms. Thompson indicated they review a lot
80 of projects, fix trails and signs and can serve on subcommittees.

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82 Mr. Clement noted the Exeter River Advisory Committee is also looking for members.

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84 3. Committee Reports

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86 a. Property Management

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i. Haying cycle at Raynes Farm

Ms. Murphy asked the Commission if they would like to continue to adhere to the current haying cycle at Raynes Farm to allow for an early cut and delayed second cut to promote Bobolink nesting. The Commission agreed to continue without change.

ii. Raynes Repair Site Prep for contractor – Expenditure Request NTE \$910

Ms. Murphy reported on repairs at Raynes Barn and the need for asbestos testing on the west end ceiling and vegetation removal for scaffolding to be installed.

MOTION: Mr. Campion motioned to authorize the expenditure of up to \$910 from the Contractor Services budget line item for asbestos testing and vegetation clearing around the barn perimeter. Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

iii. Conservation Land Mowing – Expenditure Request \$1,575 or \$1,700

Mr. Murphy discussed the mowing cycle which is one-third of the property and concerns with woody vegetation creeping in which could use a bit more mowing.

MOTION: Mr. Campion motioned to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,700 from the Roadside Mowing budget line item for field mowing on conservation lands. Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

Mr. Clement raised concerns about brush hogging the Stone property which is now overgrown. Mr. Murphy noted they attempted to have it done last year but it was too wet. Ms. Murphy will go out and take a look and get in touch with someone to do the work. Funds could be transferred from interns to roadside to contract out the work.

The Commission extended thanks to Mr. Campbell who has mowed White Meadow pass and the Garrison Lane path.

iv. Holland Way Pollinator Strip (5 mi) Expenditure Request NTE \$700

Ms. Murphy presented the proposal for a pollinator strip along the median on Holland Way. There would be rototilling and then a winter cover and seeding.

MOTION: Ms. Eberhardt motioned to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,000 from the Conservation Land Administration budget line item for seed and supplies to convert the median strip along Holland Way to pollinator habitat. Mr. Clement seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

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b. Trails

Mr. Koff noted he would like to have a separate Trails Committee meeting sometime in October or November to discuss signage, density and maintenance.

c. Outreach Events – Expenditure Request \$125

MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to authorize up to \$125 from Conservation Land Administration budget line item for outreach programming. Mr. Campion seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

i. Forest Bathing Program – 10/1

Ms. Murphy described the program as an immersion in nature. She has booked it for 9-10:30 at the Little River Conservation Area. Space is available for 12 and four have signed up so far. Mr. Koff recommended putting a broader explanation of the event on the website.

ii. SkyWatch at Raynes – 10/21 (Cloud Date 10/22)

Ms. Murphy reported she booked the SkyWatch event for October 21 at Raynes with the NH Ast. Society members. It will begin with a 30 minute presentation at the barn from 7:00-7:30 and then go out to viewing.

iii. Mushroom Walk

Ms. Murphy proposed a mushroom and foraging event. The Commission discussed properties and parking access.

MOTION: Mr. Campion motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$200 for the mushroom/foraging event. Ms. Eberhardt seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

iv. Kayak Tour

Ms. Murphy reported that Parks & Rec. have secured some kayaks and will be doing an event at the Town Boat Launch on September 25th from 10:00-11:45. There was a strong interest and possibly will have a second follow up event in October.

v. Fall/Winter Collaboration with Parks & Rec.

Ms. Murphy reported there will be some opportunities for collaborations with Parks & Recreation coming up in fall/early winter.

176 4. Approval of Minutes
177
178 a. August 9, 2022 Meeting
179
180 Ms. Murphy recommended edits.
181
182 **Mr. Koff motioned to approve the August 9, 2022 minutes as amended. Ms. Eberhardt**
183 **seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.**
184

185 5. Correspondence
186
187 Ms. Murphy reported an email stating that the preconstruction meeting for Rose Farm will be
188 September 20th and all permits are in place. They can start remediation efforts anytime now.
189
190 Ms. Murphy reported Charter Street cleanup is underway in the prime wetland. Mr. Koff noted he
191 would like to see the before and after.
192

193 6. Other Business
194
195 a. Climate Resilience Technical Assistance – Floodplain and Flood Advisory Area Zoning
196
197 Ms. Murphy discussed the Planning Board and RPC technical assistance proposal for flood area
198 with the increase for flood elevation from 1’ of freeboard to 2’ in special flood hazard area.
199 After review and recommendations it would go to the Select Board, have hearings and present
200 to Town Meeting in 3/2023. She noted Durham did a advisory program.
201
202 b. Invest NH Grant – Incentivize zoning near existing infrastructure, minimizing resource
203 impacts, and Bike Pedestrian Master Plan
204
205 Ms. Murphy reported that Town Planner Dave Sharples applied for and was awarded a \$45,000
206 Invest NH Grant and this will be used to consult on rezoning with the MPOC.
207
208 c. Other Committee Updates (SAC, EC, Tree, Pollinator)
209
210 Ms. Murphy reported the single use plastics Town Ordinance is proposed for Town property and
211 events and would have three public hearings. There would be exemption for Firer & Safety and
212 non-profits like Meals on Wheels. Information can be viewed in the Sustainability Committee’s
213 packet for their meeting last Monday.
214
215 Ms. Murphy reported the Energy Committee received its first credit for hydro net metering
216 which is part of fossil fuel collaboration with the hydro power plant. This could become a
217 budget revenue to offset other programs.
218
219 Ms. Murphy reported an electric vehicle showcase scheduled for September 25th.

220

221 7. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled (10/11/22), Submission Deadline (9/30/22)

222

223 Ms. Murphy noted the meeting will take place at Town Hall and a reminder will be sent.

224

225

226 8. Adjournment

227

228 MOTION: Mr. Koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM seconded by Mr. Madison. A vote was
229 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

230

231 Respectfully submitted,

232

233 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

234 Via Exeter TV

235

236 This meeting was also offered via Zoom 886 8896 9737