



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, October 10th, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

Action Items:

1. Letter of Support for NOAA Grant Application funding Pickpocket Dam Removal
2. By-Laws Annual Review
3. Funding request in support of picking up 15 Liberty Elm trees \$380.
4. Funding request in support of NHACC annual meeting registration \$180
5. Upcoming Event Reminders – 10/11 All Boards Meeting 6:30pm, 10/18 Right to Know 6:30pm
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Property Management
 - b. Trails - PARTIAL TRAIL CLOSURE NOTICE – SEE PACKET
 - c. Outreach Events
 - d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)
7. Approval of Minutes: 9/11/23 Site Walk, 9/12/23 Meeting, 9/12/23 Site Walk, 9/25/23 Public Hearing
8. Correspondence

Other Business

9. Next Meeting: Date Scheduled 11/14/23, Submission Deadline 11/3/23)

Andrew Koff

Exeter Conservation Commission

Posted October 6th, 2023 Exeter Town Website www.exeternh.gov and Town Office kiosk.

ZOOM Public Access Information:

Virtual Meetings can be watched on Ch 22 or Ch 98 and YouTube.

To access the meeting, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83008957614>

To access the meeting via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 830 0895 7614

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 access the meeting 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: October 6th, 2023
To: Conservation Commission Board Members
From: Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner
Subject: October 10th Conservation Commission Meeting

NOAA Grant Application

DPW is apply for a NOAA grant that would fully fund removal of the Pickpocket Dam removal with no Town match required. This dam is classified as a high hazard dam because it does not meet the State dam safety standards. The opportunity was presented to the River Study Committee and the Exeter Select Board, both of who supported pursuing the grant application. DPW is seeking a letter of support from the Conservation Commission. You can watch the full presentation to the River Advisory Committee [HERE](#). Details on the NOAA grant can be found on page 19 of the presentation available [HERE](#).

Suggested Motion:

 Authorize the Chair or designee to sign a letter in support of the Town applying to the NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal grant application for the purposes of removal of Pickpocket Dam and restoration of the Exeter River.

By-Laws Review

Annually we take a look at the by-laws and consider any needs for revision.

Suggested Motion:

 Approve the bylaws [as presented] [with revisions]

Funding Request:

The Exeter Tree Committee (subcommittee to the Conservation Commission) received a donation of 15 Liberty Elms. These are disease resistant Elm trees. They had 2 volunteers go tag the trees on one day and pick the trees up and bring to Exeter. I am seeking your support for using funds from the CC town budget to cover this cost.

Suggested Motion:

 Approve the expenditure of \$380 from the Conservation Land Administration budget line to reimburse Tree Committee volunteers for mileage to pick up and transport 15 donated trees.

Funding Request:

NHACC's Annual meeting is November 4th in Pembroke (<https://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting>). Early bird registration is \$60.

Suggested Motion:

 Approve the expenditure of [\$XX NTE \$250] from the Education and Training budget line for XX members registration for NHACC annual meeting.

Meeting Reminders:

Oct 11, 6:30 pm: All Boards Meeting – Exeter Library

Oct 18, 6:30 pm: Right to Know Training – Exeter Library

Nov 4, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm: NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting

Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)

- Energy: Electric Vehicle Day was cancelled due to rain
- Tree:
 - Received SB support for a standalone budget in DPW
- River Study Committee:
 - Voted in support of pursuing a NOAA grant that would fully fund Pickpocket dam removal
- SAC
 - No Oct meeting

NOAA Fisheries Grant



Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal

Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2023-2008056

- **Objective:** To support **fish passage** for native migratory and **sea-run fish in coastal ecosystems**, including the Great Lakes. Projects selected through this funding opportunity will result in the **removal of dams** and other in-stream barriers to fish passage. Target fish species under this funding opportunity are those native species that spend a portion of their lives in **rivers** and/or ponds and a portion in the **ocean**, estuaries or Great Lakes.
- **Additional emphasis:** Proposals that address community resilience
- **Eligibility:** institutions of higher education; non-profit and for-profit organizations; U.S. territories; and state, **local**, and Native American tribal governments.
- There is **no** non-federal matching or cost-sharing **requirement** for these funding opportunities.
- Applicants should anticipate the earliest start date for awards will be **July 1, 2024**.

Competition	Anticipated Funding Level	Range of Funding
National Fish Passage	up to \$175M	<u>will not</u> accept proposals with a federal request for less than \$1M or more than \$20M over the award period, per proposal.

BY-LAWS OF THE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Article I: Name and Location

The name of this (voluntary, non-profit,) organization shall be the Exeter Conservation Commission (hereafter called The Commission). The principal office of The Commission shall be located at The Exeter Town Office Building, 10 Front Street, Exeter, New Hampshire.

Article II: Authority

Established in March 1965 by a vote at Exeter Town Meeting, the Commission derives its authority from State Law RSA 36-A and from the Town of Exeter Ordinances. Nothing in these by-laws is intended to conflict with these.

Article III: Purposes

1. To ensure the conservation and proper utilization of the natural resources and the protection of watershed resources of the Town of Exeter.
2. To advise other Town boards and State agencies on conservation and natural resource matters as defined by local and state regulations.
3. To acquire land for fee (full title) or through conservation easement for conservation purposes and to receive gifts of money or property in the name of the Town. This may include water resources. The Commission will then manage these areas.
4. To manage duly authorized town forests.
5. To conduct research into local land and water natural resources to ascertain their value for conservation purposes.
6. To keep the public informed as to actions taken and lands available for public use.
7. To intervene when appropriate within 10 days of a dredge and fill of wetlands application, and to investigate and report its findings and recommendations within 40 days to the NH Wetlands Board.(RSA 483A)
8. To receive copies of sand and gravel excavation permit applications and make necessary comments and recommendations to the proper board.(RSA 155-E)
9. To advise the Planning Board on Conditional Use Permits, Wetland Buffer Waivers and other natural resource matters as requested.
10. To monitor open space and conservation lands, including easements for compliance with the deed.
11. To conduct or sponsor activities which foster conservation education.
12. To assist in the Town's Master Plan up-dates and to implement the actions dealing with natural resources.
13. To attend workshops, informational meetings and conferences so that the Commission is adequately informed about conservation issues.

Article IV: Membership

1. Membership And Terms Of Office

- A. Regular Members: A full Commission shall consist of seven (7) regular members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen for three-year terms. Terms shall be arranged so that approximately one-third of the members' terms expire yearly. Members may serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms and are eligible for alternate member position after maximum terms are served. The appointment of members shall conform to terms and requirements of RSA 36-A.
- B. Alternates: The Board of Selectmen may appoint five (5) alternate members. Upon designation of the Chair, alternate members may serve in place of a regular member in the event of absence or recusal. The terms for alternates shall be the same as for regular members.
- C. New members shall file an application with the Town Manager's Office and will be contacted for an interview by the Board of Selectmen. All members must be residents of Exeter.

BY-LAWS OF THE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- D. The Natural Resource Planner participates as an advisor to the Commission but does not vote.
- 2. **Election Of Officers**
Officers for the Commission shall be elected each May for a term of one year and may serve consecutive terms.
- 3. **Absenteeism**
 - A. Members are expected to attend all monthly meetings unless the Chair is notified in advance.
 - B. Unexcused absence from four meetings may result in a letter being sent to the regular member or alternate in question. If no reply is forthcoming in a reasonable amount of time (usually one month), the member will be requested to submit his or her resignation and the Selectmen will be so notified to select a replacement.

Article V: Responsibilities of Offices

- 1. **Chairperson**
 - A. It shall be the duty of the Chair, or his/her designate, to notify in advance all members of the Commission of any scheduled meeting. The Chair is also responsible for finalizing agenda for the meeting listing issues to be discussed.
 - B. The Chair shall run the meeting and assign the floor to those speakers who request it.
 - C. The Chair may take part in any discussions relative to the business at hand and will rule on any disputes that arise during debates.
- 2. **Vice-Chairperson**
 - A. The Vice-Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Commission in the absence of the Chair and shall perform all duties and have all powers of the Chair in case of temporary absence or incapacity of the Chair.
- 3. **Clerk**
 - A. In the absence of administrative staff, the Clerk shall keep an accurate record of the meetings and other proceedings of the Commission
 - B. In accordance with RSA 91-A:2, a typed copy of the minutes shall be made available for public inspection not more than 5 business days after the meeting, and a copy brought to the Town Clerk's Office.
 - C. In the absence of administrative staff, the Clerk shall be responsible for correspondence designated by the Commission.
- 4. **Treasurer**
 - A. The Treasurer ensures all monies received by the Commission is accounted for and deposited into the Conservation Fund and disbursed from that account only with proper authorization by official vote of The Commission.
 - B. The Treasurer shall report on the status of the Commissions monies at meetings of the Commission not less than quarterly and file a copy of that report with the Planning Department of the Town of Exeter.
 - C. The Treasurer, with support of the Natural Resource Planner, is responsible for preparing the annual budget request.

Article VI: Committees

1. The Raynes Farm Stewardship Sub-Committee

- A. **Objectives:** This committee is advisory to the Commission and shall:
- (i) Help identify and prioritize preservation and public use objectives for Commission review.
 - (ii) The Conservation Commission serves as the primary contact person for inquiries regarding the property and may call upon the Stewardship Committee to advise, particularly in maintaining the Town's relationship with the farmers who lease the farmland and barn.
 - (iii) Review the LCHIP monitoring report, the farmer-Commission lease agreement, and the Raynes Farm Long Range Development Plan. Any suggestions for changes that are agreed upon by the Committee shall be submitted to The Commission for their approval.
 - (iv) Provide recommendations to the Conservation Commission on implementation of projects that have budgetary impacts.
- B. **Membership:** This committee shall consist of at least 5 members including 2 representatives from The Commission, a member of the Exeter Historical Society, a member of the Public Works Department and private citizens. In addition, any individuals leasing the land will also be a part of the committee but will not vote when decisions concerning their lease are discussed. Other members may be appointed by the Commission from the town at large with the goal of furthering the objectives of the Long Range Development Plan.
- C. **Procedures:** The committee shall elect its own chair annually. The committee shall meet at least annually for the purposes of reviewing the LCHIP monitoring report, the Farmer-Commission lease agreement, and the progress with projects identified in the Raynes Farm Long Range Development Plan.

2. Trails Sub-Committee

- A. **Objectives:** This committee is advisory to The Commission and shall:
- (i) Oversee the creation and maintenance of trails on Conservation Lands in accordance with the trail management plan and advise The Commission on actions that need to be taken.
 - (ii) Submit a list of recommended trail projects to the Commission each year in order to meet budget planning schedules.
- B. **Membership:** This committee shall consist of at least 2 representatives from The Commission. Other members may include both residents and non-resident users of the trail network with the goal of having representation from a diversity of recreational uses and furthering the intent of the Trail Plan.
- C. **Procedures:** The committee shall meet at least 2 times a year to identify and prioritize trail projects needs and as needed to further the objectives of the trail management plan.

3. Tree Committee

- A. **Objectives:** Established in 2019, this Committee is an advisory Committee to The Commission and shall:
- (i) Coordinate efforts in support of Exeter's Tree City USA designation.
 - (ii) Aid in carrying out the provisions of the Tree Ordinance (Town Ordinance Chapter 23).
 - (iii) Collaborate with the Tree Warden, Town departments, and other Town officials to foster a tree-rich community.

BY-LAWS OF THE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- (iv) Help monitor the health and protection of Public Trees, including helping to update the Public Tree inventory.
 - (v) Seek grants and secure funds to support and advance the work of the committee;
 - (vi) Advance educational efforts to promote awareness and knowledge of the benefits of trees.
- B. **Membership:** This committee shall consist of at least one member of The Commission. Other members may include both residents and non-residents interested in promoting a healthy community tree program.
- C. **Procedures:** The Committee shall meet at least quarterly or as needed to further the objectives of the community tree program and the Tree City USA designation.

4. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. Ad Hoc committees may be appointed by the Chair of the Commission as the need arises. At least one member of the Commission shall serve on each committee.

Article VII: Operating Procedures

1. Meetings

- A. Public notice of Commission Meetings must be posted in two public places, such as the Town Offices, the Town's website, or the Library 24 hours prior to the meeting. The notice shall be published according to State law RSA 91, a copy of which is available in the Conservation Commission Handbook.
- B. At the discretion of the Chair there shall be not less than one regular meeting of the Commission each month. Such meetings will be held in the Town Offices on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified by the Commission or the Chair prior to the second Tuesday.
- C. Special meetings may be held, if necessary, at the discretion of the Chair. They may also be called by the Commission on a majority vote of the members for a special purpose. At any special meeting, no business other than that specified by the Commission may be considered.
- D. Individual notification of each Commission member by the Chair shall be given not less than five days before the date of any special meeting.
- E. A majority of the members of the Commission then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.
- F. It is the responsibility of the Chair to convey to the appropriate State, County or Town board or commission recommendations passed by the Commission.
- G. No discussion of action items would continue after 10:00 pm unless otherwise voted on by the Commission.

2. Public Hearings

- A. A public hearing must be held before any money from Conservation funds is used to acquire "any interest in real property"(RSA 36-A:5 II). A public hearing may be held to solicit opinions on other issues deemed important by the Commission.
- B. Notice for such a meeting must be posted in two public places and in a newspaper "of general circulation in the municipality" at least 10 days before the hearing, counting neither the day of posting or the day of the hearing. (RSA 675:7)

BY-LAWS OF THE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- C. Conduct of the meeting should follow the procedure outlined on p. III-4 of the Handbook for Municipal Conservation Commissions in New Hampshire.
- D. Minutes of the meeting should include the members of the commission present, those who testified and a summary of their positions. These minutes should be distributed in the same manner as regular minutes, described in Article V, Section 3B.

3. Dredge and Fill Applications

- A. Upon receipt of a copy of an application to dredge and fill wetlands from the Town Clerk, per RSA 482-A:3 (except for agricultural and minimum impact applications as noted in D below), the Natural Resource Planner on behalf of the Chair shall send a letter of intervention to the wetlands board asking for an additional 30 days for review if a regularly scheduled meeting will not meet review deadlines.
- B. The Commission may hold public hearings, public informational meetings and/or conduct site walks as part of its review. The application must be discussed, and a decision made as to its impact, at a regular meeting of the Commission.
- C. A final letter of recommendations shall be sent to the wetlands board.
- D. Upon receipt of agricultural wetlands or minimal impact applications, the Commission shall review the application and sign the supplied forms in accordance with State procedures if expedited review is supported by the Commission.

4. Review of Sand and Gravel Excavations

- A. Upon receipt of a copy of an application for a permit to excavate, per RSA 155-E, the Commission will review the application as to its impact on the natural resources of the area.
- B. The Commission may hold public hearings, public informational meetings and/or conduct site walks as part of its review. The application must be discussed, and a decision made as to its impact, at a regular meeting of the Commission.
- C. A final letter of recommendations shall be sent to the Planning Board.

5. Request from Planning Board, Zoning Board or Technical Review Committee for Advice or Review.

- A. Upon receipt of a Conditional Use Permit application or request for input or review by any Town board or committee, the Commission shall review the request and respond appropriately.
- B. For projects that appear before the Commission prior to other land use boards, The Commission shall provide written recommendations to those Boards for consideration.

6. Conceptual Discussions

- A. Prior to a formal application submission, the Commission may meet, if requested, with a potential applicant who anticipates submitting a formal application for review by the Commission. The purpose of the meeting is to generally discuss the project concept and any potential issues in order to help the applicant revise and improve their application before it is submitted.
- B. Such consultation shall not bind either the applicant or the Commission, and statements made by the Commission members shall not be the basis for disqualifying said members or invalidating any future action taken. The Commission and the applicant may discuss proposals in conceptual form only and neither the applicant nor the Commission shall be bound by the discussions.

7. By-laws

- A. These By-laws shall be reviewed annually and revised as needed by a majority vote of the Commission.

Important Notice: **Temporary Parking Lot** **& Trail Closure**

**The Watson Rd Lot & Sections of The
Powerline Trail in Oaklands Are
Temporarily Closed During Construction**

**Scan the QR code to view alternative parking
lots and map of open/closed trails.**



**For questions about the Project or its effect
on the trail, please visit our project website
at <https://eversource.com/fremont-stratham>**

or call our project hotline 1-888-926-5334

Thank you for your patience.

EVERSOURCE
ENERGY

Draft Minutes

**Exeter Conservation Commission
Site Walk, Rugg Conservation Project
Sept 11, 2023
4:00 pm**

Members in Attendance: Kyle Welch, Valorie Fanger, Michele Crepeau

Also Present: Members from the Newfields Conservation Commission, Toby Ferdyn

On Monday Sept 11th, the Conservation Commission conducted a site walk, meeting at Rock Crest Gardens on Route 87 in Newfields. The committee walked the proposed conservation project parcels in both Exeter and Newfields following the existing trail network. Both Commissions felt more joint meetings would be valuable.

The walk concluded at 5:00 pm.

Kristen Murphy
Conservation and Sustainability Planner

Draft Minutes

**Exeter Conservation Commission
Site Walk, Rider Conservation Project
Sept 12, 2023
5:30 pm**

Members in Attendance: Drew Koff, Kyle Welch, Dave Short, Keith Whitehouse, Michele Crepeau, Nick Champion

Also Present: Chris Rider (property owner), Jeremy Lougee (SELT). Members from the East Kingston Conservation Commission, and Kristen Murphy

On Tuesday Sept 12th, the Conservation Commission conducted a site walk, meeting at 42 Powder Mill Road in Exeter. The committee walked the proposed conservation project in Exeter, East Kingston and Kensington following an open mowed pathway throughout the property.

The walk concluded at 6:30 pm.

Kristen Murphy
Conservation and Sustainability Planner

Exeter Conservation Commission
September 12, 2023
Nowak Room
10 Front Street
7:00 PM
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, David Short, Treasurer, Nick Campion, Connor Madison, Kyle Welch, , Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Don Clement, Alternate Valerie Fanger, Alternate Michelle Crepeau and Nancy Belanger, Select Board Representative

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

Mr. Koff called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Public Comment

There was no one from the public present outside of agenda items.

Action Items

1. Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application for the construction of a vehicle storage lot and vehicle charging station located at 10 Holland Way
Tax Map 51, Lots 14-1 & 13 (Jones & Beach)

Mr. Koff read out loud the public hearing notice.

Chris Lane of McFarland Ford presented the application to install two level six charging stations and three level three charging stations at its existing gravel storage area on Holland Way. He noted the stations would be available to the public through various payment processes, 24/7. There would continue to be some inventory storage, although less to make room for the traffic entering and existing. The project is scheduled to begin in December.

Eric Poulin of Jones & Beach, described the area in the wetland buffer which is to be moved forward for less impact to the wetland and paved. He described the proposed treatment swales which would be more visible and drainage as well as curbing and grading. He noted 5,948 SF of temporary impact to prime buffer and 828 SF of impact to poorly drained soil. A portion of pavement in the prime buffer is 5,844 SF and there will be rip rap and erosion control as well as restoration. He described the three stop control locations.

44
45 Brendan Quigley from Gove Environment was present and provided the functions and values report. He
46 discussed the finger wetlands and noted there was no permit with the state.
47
48 Chair Koff activated Alternate Don Clement for voting on this application.
49
50 Mr. Campion asked about the benefit of the charging station and whether it would ever go away. Mr.
51 Lane responded it would be in perpetuity. Mr. Campion asked about snow storage and Mr. Lane
52 showed the area proposed which is now grass.
53
54 Mr. Koff noted he struggled with the loss of prime wetland and Mr. Clement indicated it was an
55 improvement over the gravel area now there, already disturbed and electric vehicles don't leak engine
56 fluids. Mr. Short agreed.
57
58 Ms. Murphy asked if the southeast side was curbed and Mr. Lane indicated no. She advised that the
59 wetland scientist stamp needed to be added to the plan.
60
61 Mr. Koff reviewed the criteria for granting CUP and asked about the seed mix which Mr. Quigley
62 addressed. Mr. Koff asked about areas of mowing.
63
64 Ms. Murphy asked about the electric cabinet and Mr. Lane explained the triple phase power access.
65
66 MOTION: Mr. Clement motioned, after reviewing the criteria, to not oppose the CUP for this project.
67 Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Koff voted nay. The motion passed 6-1-0.
68
69 2. Drinking Water Trust Fund Grant Application for Conservation Land in the area of the town line
70 between Exeter and Newfields (Southeast Land Trust/Trust for Public Lands)
71
72 Mr. Koff read out loud the public hearing notice and noted there was a site visit at 5:30 today.
73
74 Jeremy Lougee of SELT presented the application which would have \$500,000, if successful, of the \$1.2
75 M cost funded by the grant. The easement would be held by SELT. He requested a public hearing be
76 scheduled for funding purposes, and a letter of support from the Commission, the Select Board and
77 DPW or the Water Dept. for the deadline on the 29th. He described the project which is joint with
78 Kensington.
79
80 Mr. Koff activated Alternate Valerie Fanger for voting on this application.
81
82 Ms. Fanger asked about access and he noted the easement is not proposed for recreation and will be
83 privately held with no parking area created. The owners have concerns over posting for hunting. The
84 property was formerly a brick yard. The owner will park their RV and small trailer.
85
86 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned that the Commission send a letter of support for this project. Mr. Welch
87 seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

88

89 3. Drinking Water Trust Fund Grant Application for Conservation Land to be held by Southeast Land
90 Trust (SELT)

91

92 Lynette Batt presented the application for the \$1.6 M easement to be held by SELT partially to be
93 funded, if successful, by the \$500,000 grant application due on the 29th and requested public hearing
94 and letters of support. She noted three members of the Commission attended the site walk of the
95 property yesterday. She described the project jointly with Newfields who would have a 148 acre
96 property and 8-9 miles of trails. Exeter would have 47 acres of property connected by three miles of
97 trails. Title and boundary matters are being worked out on the Exeter property. Ms. Murphy noted they
98 are being reviewed by counsel.

99

100 Mr. Koff activated Alternate Michelle Crepeau for voting on this application.

101

102 Mr. Short questioned whether more bonding would be received by the Select Board in addition to the
103 safety complex if it were to pass next year and overwhelming voters. He also questioned whether both
104 grant applications would compete with each other.

105

106 MOTION: Mr. Koff motioned to send a letter indicating support of the Commission contingent upon:

107

108 1. Resolution of the boundary issue to the Town's satisfaction; and

109

110 2. Town's decision to proceed with the Conservation purchase.

111

112 Mr. Campion seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

113

114 a. Property Management

115

116 i. McDonnell Seasonal Gate Closure Date: 10/27/'23

117

118 Ms. Murphy indicated the gate would be closed on October 27th.

119

120 ii. Raynes Farm

121

122 Ms. Murphy reported on the extension request, Moose Plant grant application, and
123 progress of the construction work.

124

125 b. Trails

126

127 Ms. Murphy reviewed the current conditions of the Alan Street trail which has become
128 overgrown. Mr. Koff noted there did not appear to be a lot of users since Bill and Carlos cleared
129 it recently. Ms. Murphy recommended maintaining a limited area near the point. The
130 Commission will do a site visit before the next meeting.

131

132 Ms. Murphy noted Linden Commons needs maintenance, minor trimming work. A letter went
133 out asking the private property sign which someone put up be taken down.

134
135 Ms. Murphy noted ATV use on Drinkwater Road and a sign was put up with a trail cam. One
136 owner came in to see her Friday to discuss it.

137
138 c. Outreach Events

139
140 i. 9/14 SAC/CPAC at Farmer’s Market

141
142 Ms. Murphy reported the Sustainability Committee will be at the Farmer’s Market to
143 have a table on renewable energy.

144
145 ii. 9/23 – Fifth Annual ESRLAC (Exeter River Fall Kayak & BBQ – 10 AM to Noon

146
147 Ms. Murphy reported ERSLAC will have a paddle event to Pickpocket Dam followed by a
148 barbeque.

149
150 iii. Ms. Murphy proposed a mushroom walk and a Jack-O’Lantern walk.

151
152 d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)

153
154 5. Approval of Minutes – August 8, 2023

155
156 Ms. Fanger and Mr. Short recommended edits.

157
158 MOTION: Mr. Short motioned to approve the August 8, 2023 minutes, as amended. (Ms. Crepeau was
159 still active). Mr. Madison seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed
160 7-0-0.

161
162 6. Correspondence

163
164 Mr. Koff reported he received an email about the newsletter and Ms. Belanger explained how to sign up
165 and will send a link to the other members.

166
167 7. Other Business

168
169 Ms. Belanger reported there would be an All Board’s Meeting on October 11th at the Library and a Right
170 to Know Seminar the following Wednesday.

171
172 8. Next Meeting; Date Scheduled 10/10/23, Submission Deadline 9/29/23

173
174

175 9. Adjournment

176

177 MOTION: Mr. Short moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM seconded by Mr. Campion. A vote was
178 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

179

180 Respectfully submitted,

181

182 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

183 Via Exeter TV

184 Zoom ID 81237855390

1 Exeter Conservation Commission Public Hearing
2 September 25, 2023
3 Nowak Room
4 10 Front Street
5 6:30 PM
6 Draft Minutes

7
8 **Call to Order**

9
10 1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)

11
12 Present at tonight’s meeting were by roll call, Chair Andrew Koff, David Short, Treasurer, Nick Campion,
13 Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Michelle Crepeau. Also present were members of the Exeter Select Board
14 Niko Papakonstantis, Molly Cowan, Dan Chartrand, Julie Gilman, Nancy Belanger.

15
16 Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner and Russ Dean, Town Manager
17 and Melissa Roy, Assistant Town Manager.

18
19 2. Call the Meeting to Order

20
21 Mr. Koff called a meeting to order for a Public Hearing for the consideration of the expenditure of
22 \$100,000 from the Exeter Conservation Fund for the acquisition of an Executory Interest Deed on Tax
23 Map 113-3 and 113-5.

24
25 Mr. Short made the motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Nick Campion and passed
26 unanimously by roll call vote with all members responding in the affirmative (5-0).

27
28 Mr. Koff introduced Jeremy Lougee from Southeast Land Trust to provide an overview of a conservation
29 project that includes 156 acres in 3 towns (Exeter, Kensington and E. Kingston) of which approximately
30 21 acres are in Exeter. He described the resources that would be protected through conservation of this
31 land including preservation of the watershed for Great Brook which drains to the Exeter River,
32 significant farmland soils, floodplain, aquifer protection, pollutant attenuation. He stated it is a high
33 priority area for the NH Coastal Plan, more than 100 acres scores average or above average by The
34 Nature Conservancy’s climate resiliency plan, it is within the Top Tiers for habitat in NH Fish and Game
35 wildlife action plan, is a wildlife connectivity core area, abuts existing conservation lands, is a designated
36 tree farm, and a historic brick yard from which many Academy building bricks came from.

37
38 Ms. Belanger asked about which existing conservation lands abutted the abutted and Jeremy named
39 them and identified the town they are within. Ms. Gilman expressed support for the project. Ms.
40 Belanger summarized questions that were discussed at the September 12th Conservation Commission
41 meeting including water development, public access and parking. Ms. Gilman asked about how the
42 exclusion area would be defined and Jeremy stated that identifies the exclusion area. Mr. Lougee
43 clarified the public access that this is private property, which differs from land where property is

44 purchased by and owned by the town and that the property is for protection of open space. Ms.
45 Belanger inquired whether the trails would remain open to the public. Mr. Lougee explained provided
46 the landowner does not post the property, public can access the land as they do today.

47

48 Mr. Koff made a motion to close the public hearing. It was seconded by Dave Short, and passed by
49 unanimous vote.

50

51 Drew made a motion to authorize the use of \$100,000 from the conservation fund for the acquisition of
52 real property interest at tax map 113-3 and 113-5 in the name of the town by the Conservation
53 Commission pursuant to RSA 36A:4, contingent on Select Board authorization and securing the
54 additional funds and further authorization the chair or designee to sign a letter of support for the
55 application of a Drinking Water Trust Fund Grant for this project. By roll call vote all members voted in
56 the affirmative (5-0).

57

58 9. Adjournment

59

60 MOTION: Mr Koff, moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM seconded by Mr. Campion. A vote was
61 taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

62

63 Respectfully submitted,

64 Kristen Murphy