



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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www.exeternh.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE **EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION's** **Subcommittee: Exeter Tree Committee**

The Exeter Tree Committee will meet in the Nowak Room, Exeter Town Offices
at 10 Front Street, Exeter on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at 8:30 A.M.

Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

Agenda Items

1. Approval of minutes from Feb 10th, 2026
2. Schedule for moving of Library elms/plant dogwood and lilac bush
3. decision of location for the elms at Raynes farm location
4. Report of meeting with LSS Green team Mon 16th. re "Heat Re-Leaf" grant
5. May 16 plan for Swasey Birch event, time to be determined
6. Alewife Festival volunteers and new ideas
7. Correspondence
8. New business
9. Other Business

Next meeting date: Apr 14

Eileen Flockhart, Chair
Exeter Tree Committee

Posted March 13th, 2026 Exeter Town Website www.exeternh.gov and Exeter Town Offices

Town of Exeter

TREE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2026

I. PRELIMINARIES:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eileen Flockhart (Chairwoman), Steve Jones,
Gwen English

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kirk Scamman, Greg Bisson

II. CALL TO ORDER:

Eileen Flockhart called the meeting to order at 8:30AM

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Steve Jones moved to accept the minutes from January 13, 2026 as written. Eileen seconded the motion. Motion passed

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Kristen gave a brief review of Unutil's application to the Planning Board seeking approval to cut trees and remove hazardous trees on Scenic Roads in Exeter. Pursuant to RSA 231:158, a public utility is required to receive Planning Board approval (following a duly-noticed public hearing) before commencing any cutting or trimming. She noted that this Scenic Road designation is stricter than the Tree Committee's requirements, so it will not be necessary for us to approve the proposed work on our Scenic Roads, and that any work done outside of the Scenic Roads would come to us. She suggested that we amend our Town's Tree Ordinance to clarify RSA 231:158. This would require public hearings.

Kirk informed the group that a tree service working with Unutil was attempting to begin tree cutting work in Town without getting prior approval. They will need to come to a future Tree Committee meeting so that this can be put on our agenda, thus notifying the public. We will need more information about the proposed work, including: where trees are located, size and type of trees, who owns the trees, health of trees. Kristen wants to make sure that they're in the Towns ROW, and that they give Kirk plenty of time to look at the trees before they meet with us. Hopefully that meeting will occur on March 17.

Eileen does not yet have any updates from the American Independence Museum about possible tree planting(s) there for the 250 Celebration, and will wait to get more information from Joe Pace. Given that AIM is on private property, (and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization) it will not be possible for us to buy a tree, or trees, for this event, nor would it be appropriate for DPW to prepare the ground for planting(s). Steve suggests that there are likely individuals wishing to donate funds to the purchase trees, and are also volunteers who would be happy to help dig hole(s) for trees. According to Kristen, Karen Prior met with the Conservation Commission on behalf of AIM and talked about multiple plantings, including fruit trees. We need to determine soil conditions at Raynes Farm if an Elm is planted there, as apparently some locations mentioned are very rocky. Gwen questioned where the proposed 'pumpkin patch' would be located and Kirk responded that it is in a swale near the barn and is typically a wet area...'not good for planting pumpkins'! If a Liberty Elm is planted on the Raynes property, it should be planted in April so as to avoid planting in the heat of the summer. He's hoping that our drought level will improve with the current snow melt, if it melts slowly.

Kristen gave us an update on the PREP grant and indicated that she still needs to present the grant to the Selectboard. She would also like early coordination with the Green Team at LSS so she'll have an opportunity to discuss with them her 'vision'. Eileen has spoken again with Sarah DeWitt, president of the Elementary School PTA and was told by Sarah that she'd still like to be involved with Tree Committee activities. Eileen hopes to get younger children involved and plans on talking with Julia Lanter (director) about possible programs. Eileen would like to connect with more children than those at LSS.

Kristen needs additional outreach events for the grant and indicated that Julia reached out to her about the NSF (National Science Foundation) that has programs and resources. Kristen will let us know before she presents to the Selectboard members so that we'll have an opportunity to be at the meeting to support her. She also informed us that there are strict RSA guidelines about accepting grants.

Eileen would like to begin discussions about future plantings. With the grant, we'll have 28 trees for which to find planting locations. Kristen will work with Linda Burbank (GIS professional) to develop overlays of utilities as we start this planning. Until we have a list of trees that can be planted safely under utility lines. More discussions ensued about the need for street trees on Front Street, particularly near Enna's and Rockingham Feed. Steve would like to see a large tree that 'makes a statement' in the future roundabout.

Greg is hesitant to put new plantings in front of the site on 10 Hampton Road, but said that there is a tiny playground there that has no trees, no shade. Steve questioned whether the south side of the building could use shade. Kristen likes this idea, particularly since the PREP grant's intent is *heat relief!*

Eileen is looking at a possible mid-May celebration for the white birch tree in Swasey Parkway. Kirk indicated that a weekend celebration would be better than one during the work week. Gwen suggested that we reach out to Rose Bryant and other artists to see if they would like to be there with easels and paints to do paintings of the trees.

Eileen informed us about legislation that is in the works in Concord. HB 1303 She will keep us apprised as this goes forward.

Eileen wondered if it would be worthwhile to have a table at the polls on March 10th when citizens vote. She could get pencils, handouts etc. and have activities for everyone. Perhaps the Green Team would like to get involved if they have the day off from school. Steve will ask his wife, Kate Miller (Exeter's Town Moderator) about getting permission to set up a table. Kristen may be able to help.

Lastly, we should give thought to 'swag' for the PREP grant activities. Gwen will talk with Sarah Koff about doing a logo.

Meeting ended at 9:30AM

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 17th AT 8:30AM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen English on 2/17/2026



Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov>

Re: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Trees on powder mill rd

1 message

Jay Perkins <jperkins@exeternh.gov>

Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 11:23 AM

To: Jana Toomey <jana@toomeylandscape.com>

Cc: Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov>, Jeff Toomey <Jeff@readcustomsoils.com>, "kscamman@exeternh.gov" <kscamman@exeternh.gov>, "gbisson@exeternh.gov" <gbisson@exeternh.gov>, "npapakonstantis@exeternh.gov" <npapakonstantis@exeternh.gov>, "jeff@toomeylandscape.com" <jeff@toomeylandscape.com>

Good morning Jana

I have passed on the concerns to Unitil and will pass this on to the tree crews as well. I have been out there twice today and they are not working but I will be back to make sure they get the message.

Jay

On Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 11:09 AM Jana Toomey <jana@toomeylandscape.com> wrote:

Dear Kristen,

Thank you for your response. While we acknowledge that Unitil held a public hearing on February 12th as required, we remain concerned because the actual practices on the ground do not align with the utility's statements.

As noted in Jeff's previous email and my correspondence with Jay in December 2025, Unitil has repeatedly ignored the requirement to obtain owner permission before flagging or removing trees on private property. The incident involving the Ash tree in Fall 2025 further demonstrates this pattern of disregarding proper protocols, especially here on our road.

While there are several outstanding concerns regarding Unitil's conduct on Powder Mill Road, our primary issue is their continued failure to follow the flagging and authorization process. Despite their assurances to the Planning Board, they are currently moving forward without contacting or obtaining consent from the affected property owners.

We ask that the town ensure Unitil adheres to the authorized process and respects private property rights.

Sincerely,

Jana Toomey

*sincerely,**jana*

Jana Toomey, Office Manager

(603) 433-3500

jana@toomeylandscape.com

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Jeffery Toomey

Landscape Contractors, LLC

www.toomeylandscape.com

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On Wed, Mar 11, 2026 at 9:17 AM Kristen Murphy <kmurphy@exeternh.gov> wrote:

Good morning Jeff,

The Exeter Planning Board did follow NHRSA hold a public hearing for the proposed tree trimming and removal by Unitil on February 12th. The utility did emphasize that trees on private land would receive permission from the property owners.

Kristen

On Tue, Mar 10, 2026 at 8:23 PM Jeff Toomey <Jeff@readcustomsoils.com> wrote:

Good Evening / Morning Everyone,

I just wanted to reach out regarding the new tree work that started today on Powder Mill Rd. We fully understand that tree pruning and removal is at times necessary, to maintain the overhead utilities. Our concern is the flagging and authorization process. This past December, I witnessed the process firsthand. A well-marked, Unitil pickup truck, stopped in front of my home. An individual exited the truck wrapped an orange ribbon around a tree on our property (inside the stone wall, not in a public right of way) then returned to his truck and proceeded towards Linden St, to continue the process....No attempt to come to the door, or leave a notice etc

As of today, still no one from Unitil has contacted me or my neighbors, to explain their intentions, and ask for permission for removing a tree from private property. Yet tree removal has begun at the beginning of Powder Mill Rd (I'm not certain if they are on public or private property) I removed the ribbon on our marked tree last month, as I knew it was better to remove it, than not, in case a crew was sent to remove trees with orange ribbons...as they are now doing. Again, I understand trees must be removed for various reasons, however those need to be explained and discussed prior to marking them for removal, especially on private property.

As Powder Mill Road is a **DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD**, I believe they need to go through the proper channels for removing trees of a certain size, etc, when they are in the public right of way? Homeowners are the ones who make the final decision when on private property, and need to provide their authorization.

Please understand, that after the debacle that took place in the fall of 2024, at the corner of Powder Mill Rd and Kimball Rd, (when an extremely large Ash tree, was partially removed (only partial as neighbors called the town, to stop its complete take down), without going through the proper process ...we are more than skeptical, whenever we see Unitil marking trees, or they or their subcontractors appear on the road.

All we ask is that the proper channels take place , of proper notification and request for permission take place where required....individual property owners on private property, and proper hearings etc with the town regarding

scenic roads. This was the reason for our previous inquiry to the town in December 2025, when they were marking trees. We never heard the status of it, ...only that the matter was going to be looked into. (as indicated in the email chain below).

If you wouldn't mind, can you please provide an update, as we hope the character of a DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD, isn't compromised, as a result of Unutil, not abiding by the rules, that are in place,yet again!

Once again, we understand that trees will have to be removed at various times, for the safety of the utility lines, however, please understand our concerns.....that we have seen the result, when rules aren't followed... especially on DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD

Please feel to share this with other members of the tree committee, as I could only locate a few email addresses, when cross referencing various board members within the town website, and there was no email addresses listed on the Tree Committee section, for its members.

Thank you in advance for your attention, and feel free to contact me with any questions, of further information needed.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

Jeff and Jana Toomey,
138 Powder Mill Rd
Exeter

Jeff Toomey

Sales Representative

Northern New England

(603) 235-8420



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From: Jeff Toomey <jeff@toomeylandscape.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 1:59 PM
To: Jeff Toomey <Jeff@readcustomsoils.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Trees on powder mill rd

Sincerely,

Jeff Toomey

Jeffery Toomey Landscape Contractors, LLC
(603) 433-3500

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jay Perkins <jperkins@exeternh.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 3:20 PM
Subject: Re: Trees on powder mill rd
To: Jana Toomey <jana@toomeylandscape.com>
CC: Jeff Toomey <jeff@toomeylandscape.com>, Kirk Scamman <kscamman@exeternh.gov>

Thanks for the heads up Jana I will look into into it.

Jay

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 8, 2025, at 11:15 AM, Jana Toomey <jana@toomeylandscape.com> wrote:

Good morning Jay,

Just wanted to give you a heads up, unless Sue Hanson already reached out, but Unitil in on Powder Mill Road tagging trees for removal (on private property) without coming up to the owners to ask for approval. No notice on the door or on the mailbox either.

Just want to be proactive, especially with the Ash Tree issue we had last year.

Please let me know your thoughts.

sincerely,

jana

Jana Toomey, Office Manager

(603) 433-3500

jana@toomeylandscape.com

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Jeffery Toomey

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Kristen Murphy
Conservation and Sustainability Planner
Town of Exeter
10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833
(603) 418-6452

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Jay Perkins
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