

1 **TOWN OF EXETER**
2 **PLANNING BOARD**
3 **NOWAK ROOM**
4 **10 FRONT STREET**
5 **FEBRUARY 26, 2026**
6 **APPROVED MINUTES**
7 **7:00 PM**

8 **I. PRELIMINARIES:**
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10 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BY ROLL CALL:** Chair Langdon Plumer, Clerk, John Grueter, Gwen
11 English, Marty Kennedy, Alternate Dean Hubbard, Alternate Sam MacLeod and Select Board
12 Representative Nancy Belanger.
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14 **STAFF PRESENT:** Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner
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16 **II. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Plumer called the meeting to order at 7 PM, introduced the members.
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18 **III. NEW BUSINESS:**
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20 **IV. OLD BUSINESS**
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22 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
23

24 February 12, 2026 – Tabled
25

26 *Ms. Belanger motioned to table approval of the minutes. Ms. English seconded the motion. The*
27 *motion passed unanimously.*
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29 **V. OTHER BUSINESS**
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- 31 • Discussion of Complete Streets Design Guidelines and Next Steps
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33 Chair Plumer noted that Scott Bogle had presented the Complete Streets report at the last
34 Planning Board meeting. He noted some steps have been taken already on Lincoln and Water
35 Streets and they recommended sidewalks be plowed quickly and establish a committee to move
36 things along. He noted the committee could be a Planning Board subcommittee or Select Board
37 committee.
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39 Mr. Grueter recommended doing a video presentation through ExeterTV. He recommended
40 there be parking on one side of the street by Sea Dogs. Chair Plumer recommended looking at
41 the area near Loaf & Ladle. Mr. MacLeod recommended looking at Franklin Street and whether

42 there should be no left turn. Ms. Belanger discussed line of sight and Mr. Grueter added parked
43 cars. Ms. Belanger asked Mr. Richards if he thought right turn only would be safer for bicyclists
44 and he recommended having a committee to answer with experience versus one individual.
45 Water Street is dangerous for cyclists, and it would be good to have a place to park bikes and
46 walk into town.

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48 Chair Plumer asked the next steps. Mr. Grueter who serves on the MPOC recommended
49 presenting to the Select Board to adopt with a recommendation letter from the Planning Board.

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51 Mr. Kennedy, who serves on the MPOC, recommended once adopted the advisory committee is
52 needed. Ms. Belanger noted she brought that up at the Select Board meeting. The Board
53 discussed potential representatives. Chair Plumer recommended a citizen representative, and a
54 Select Board representative. Ms. Belanger agreed, someone like Silas Richards. She noted the
55 MPOC meets during the day.

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57 Silas Richards noted he had concerns with the subcommittee being only Planning Board
58 members and noted it was important to include public safety and planner. He noted there are
59 opportunities and having workshops before projects begin at an accessible time and being
60 proactive rather than reactive and having a wide variety of people, maybe a representative from
61 River Woods. He recommended establishing the scope of the committee to provide input on
62 future projects and improving low-cost existing conditions.

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64 Chair Plumer expressed concern with having too large a committee. Mr. Grueter agreed that
65 different projects will need different people. Mr. Kennedy recommended one Planning Board
66 representative, one from Public Works and that the rest be citizens not to make decisions but an
67 advisory committee with staff.

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69 Ms. Murphy discussed the pros of a daytime meeting and the availability of staff, maybe during
70 lunch with a Zoom option. Ms. Belanger reminded that a quorum is required in person. Mr.
71 Richards noted they need representation from town staff, the Planning Board, Public Safety and
72 the Recreation Dept. Ms. Belanger noted there are a lot of meetings already and that is
73 something the Select Board is looking at. Ms. Murphy noted the MPOC could be the vector and
74 create forums of interest groups.

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76 Chair Plumer summarized the next steps, to accept the report, recommend to the Select Board
77 and have the report presented to the Select Board. He encouraged the Board to consider who
78 needs to be on the committee. Mr. MacLeod recommended having people who work in shops
79 and restaurants who he imagined often get feedback from people.

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81 Ms. English questioned if others had reviewed the report as much as they should. Chair Plumer
82 agreed the Board needed more time to go through it and see if it meets the Board's criteria. Mr.
83 Kennedy agreed they should take time to go through it but not wait too long. Ms. Belanger
84 noted the next meeting is March 12. Mr. Grueter recommended being prepared at that meeting
85 and it would be good to have input from Ms. Martel and Vice-Chair Brown.

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Mr. Richards stated that people want to see safer streets and encouraged the Board to advance as fast as possible with critical projects advancing and especially with low-cost improvements. Ms. Murphy noted the low-cost proposals could be demonstrated. Ms. Belanger agreed and noted ExeterTV would likely be available to film it.

- Master Plan Discussion
- Field Modifications
- Bond and/or Letter of Credit Reductions and Release

VI. TOWN PLANNER’S ITEMS

VII. CHAIRPERSON’S ITEMS

Chair Plumer announced that Dawn Ferringo is the new Planning & Building Administrator.

VIII. PB REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT ON “OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITY”

IX. ADJOURN

Ms. Belanger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:53PM. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.

Daniel Hoijer,
Recording Secretary (Via Exeter TV)