

**Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
October 2, 2018
6:30 PM
Nowak Room
Draft Minutes**

Present were: Chair Florence C. Ruffner, Gerry Hamel, Mark Damsell and Anne Surman, Select Board Representative

1. Call to Order: Chair Ruffner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

August 6, 2018 Minutes – Tabled

Chair Ruffner stated there were two more revisions not made to the August 6, 2018 meeting: Changed “suggested” to “stated” in the Highland Hardwood’s paragraph

(Note: this change was recommended for Line 115 and was already corrected)

and Mr. Hamel to Mr. Damsell on Line 149.

August 8, 2018 Site Walk - Tabled

September 4, 2018 Minutes - Tabled

Mr. Hamel requested to table review of the August 6th revisions and September 4, 2018 minutes as he had just received those before the meeting. Mr. Hamel stated he was not present at the Site Walk and would abstain from those. Mr. Damsell stated that everyone got the minutes from Andy for August 8, 2018. Chair Ruffner advised the DPW did not do minutes for Site Walks. Mr. Damsell advised there is a quorum of the Trustees if two or more members attend.

August 27, 2018 Grass Site Walk

Mr. Damsell has some changes to recommend to the August 27, 2018 grass site walk minutes and will write those down.

Mr. Damsell motioned to accept the 8/27/18 grass site-walk minutes as amended. Chair Ruffner seconded the motion, with 1 abstention, approved 2-0.

3. Vote on Trees to be Donated

Ganley

Chair Ruffner stated she understood that Mrs. Ganley wanted a sugar maple and got a cost of \$466 from Dave Short of Stratham Circle Nursery for tree and planting. Chair Ruffner recognized Mrs. Ganley who was present.

Lucretia Ganley stated that she wanted to donate a tree to Swasey Parkway in memory of her husband. Sugar maples were her husband’s favorite tree. Mr. Ganley was a forester and lived in Exeter for 65 years.

Mrs. Ganley stated she hoped to plant it in a wide-open space where it could get a lot of sun and grow to have a big crown. Mr. Damsell stated it would have a 2-2.5" caliper.

Chair Ruffner asked if she was interested in a memorial plaque. Mrs. Ganley will look at other memorial stones on the Parkway and send in a picture of what she is going to select before installing it.

Mrs. Ganley added she was interested in volunteering. Mr. Damsell advised that the Conservation Commission would be at the Town Forest removing invasive species from 9-12 on Saturday.

Mr. Damsell moved to accept the gracious gift of a sugar maple for the Parkway from Mrs. Ganley. Chair Ruffner seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Conel

Mr. Damsell advised he did some research and contacted the Conel family concerning replacement of the Norway Maple tree they had donated. Mr. Damsell was able to speak with the son in Florida who wanted to know why the tree had died. The Trustees agreed they should be responsible for removal of the dead tree. Chair Ruffner stated she had spoken with Jay Perkins about removing the stump. Mr. Hamel advised they might have a few stumps to do at once. Mr. Damsell added the new tree should not be planted in exactly the same location.

Mr. Damsell advised the recommended replacement tree is a red maple as the Norway Maple is on the invasive species list. The price for the tree, delivery and planting would be \$440.00.

Mr. Hamel motioned to get in touch with the Conels and put a red maple in the location agreed upon when the other tree has been removed. Chair Ruffner seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Highland Hardwoods

Heather at Highland Hardwoods expressed an interest in donating a tree in memory of the business. Chair Ruffner advised they would like a flowering cherry. Mr. Hamel advised that some cherry varieties drop pits and make a real mess. Mr. Damsell recommended the river side where there is more room.

Mr. Hamel motioned to go with a flowering cherry tree that does not drop pits for Highland Hardwoods who will pay for the tree, delivery and planting. Chair Ruffner seconded the motion, with all in favor, so moved.

4. Vote on Cleaning Up the Parkway

Chair Ruffner advised that she obtained three estimates for cleaning up the Parkway. The Trustees agreed to go with Piscataqua whom they voted for earlier.

Mr. Damsell stated he would like to see air spading done as well as shrub pruning. The Trustees received an email from Bijrani concerning clean-up of the Parkway. Mr. Hamel advised it was difficult during construction. Mr. Damsell advised doing as much work as possible this Winter and revisiting it every season unless there is a safety issue. Chair Ruffner advised the dead limbs should be done now. Mr. Damsell will reach out to Chris

Kemp at Piscataqua and see if it can be taken care of now. Mr. Damsell stated he wanted to thank and commend William Smith and Jonathan Ring, individuals who make an effort to volunteer their time on the Parkway and other places around Town.

Ms. Surman asked if the Parkway would have to be closed during the clean-up work. Mr. Damsell will ask Mr. Kemp to notify the Trustees and Select Board about road closure. T-Buck was supposed to be done by October 1st but are still working there until December.

5. Other Business

Exeter-Swampscott River “Water Trail” Signs:

Mr. Damsell advised he spoke with Julie LaBranch concerning the sign a couple of weeks ago. She provided a picture of where she believed the sign would go which he notified her was incorrect. He advised her where the sign should go in the bark mulch near the flag, that they don't want to obstruct the river view, and asked her to send a picture and has not heard back yet.

Landscaping (Mark Damsell):

Chair Ruffner discussed the plans provided by Mike Graves. Mr. Hamel recommended having the proposed plantings staked and numbered so the Trustees could walk the site and be able to tell what was going where. Chair Ruffner will contact Mr. Graves tomorrow to schedule a site walk for October 15, 2018 at 8 am.

Mr. Damsell recommended aeration and overseeding from the boathouse to the white birch. There is a dormant seed you won't see growing until Spring. Chair Ruffner advised the area where construction pipes were laid needs to settle.

Mr. Damsell stated TEAM was not charged for its two uses of the Parkway last season.

NH Rocks

Mr. Damsell raised concern about the painting and leaving of rocks in the grass lawns where they could do damage. Recently a rock was wedged into the fence where it could fall down into the grass. There needs to be conversations with Rec and education with those hiding these rocks.

Irrigation/Water Bill

Mr. Damsell advised the irrigation had been shut off two weeks ago, Friday. Mr. Hamel stated that it hadn't needed to be used this year. T-Buck had repaired the irrigation that was ripped up during construction. The lines need to be blown out before Winter. Mr. Damsell opened the water bill which was \$1,140.53. Mr. Damsell thinks the overage is because due to oversight the system was not turned off and was running at night. Mr. Hamel stated the construction company should be responsible for the usage fees and potentially the cost to blow out the system which would not have been turned on this year if it hadn't needed to be repaired.

Mr. Damsell will find out the cost to winterize the irrigation lines.

NHMA November 15th – Trustees' Duties

Chair Ruffner advised that the New Hampshire Municipal Association was hosting a lecture on November 15th on the responsibilities of Trustees. Ms. Surman recommended putting together wording for a Warrant Article for Town Meeting and meeting with Mr. Donovan. Mr. Hamel advised there was no hurry to change things until projects that are underway are finished. KeyBank is doing a good job with investing. The Trustees will continue to discuss whether non-profits should have their fees waived.

6. Public Comment:

Next Meeting Dates: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 6:30 pm.

7. Adjournment:

Chair Ruffner adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer
Recording Secretary
(via *Townhallstreams.com*)