

Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
September 20, 2019
Approved Minutes

Present: Mark Damsell, Florence Ruffner, Dwane Staples, Kathy Corson, Matt Berube
Town of Exeter

The Meeting was called to order at 11:04 am for the purpose of a site walk at Swasey Parkway. The group started at the outlook by the Academy boathouse where Mr. Damsell pointed out that the head wall was falling apart and in need of repair. The group looked at the wall and it was noted that you could not see it very well unless on the other side of the river or behind the boat house.

The group then walked to where the trees had been cut and the stumps ground and discussion took place as to whether the chips should be cleaned up or left before the Powder Keg event. It was determined that it would be ok to leave the chips at this time.

The planting of hydrangeas in front of the white fence was discussed and no action as taken at this time. The group continued to walk thru the parkway and discussions turned to the idea of the removal of the existing shrubbery due to the amount of invasive plant material in them and the cost of pruning. It was suggested to install new plant material if this action was to take place. The group moved to the Hawthorne tree that is old and the trunk is in poor shape and it was suggested that this tree be removed. The discussion of the upcoming aeration and overseeding was discussed and it was explained that it was a good idea to do this as the turf needed to be improved and nothing had been done for several years.

The block building was pointed out as having been painted and everyone liked the color as it matches the light posts color. The group was told the final repairs to the building would be made after the Powder Keg event.

As the group moved past the block building discussion turned to the idea of placing benches in the area of the pipe line ditch. Mr. Berube said he would not be oppose to this as they would not be very deep into the ground. Discussion was also had in regards to a possible rain garden in this area since it stays wet when we have a lot of heavy rains. Mr. Berube was not opposed to this either.

The group then moved to the hill after the sidewalk and it was noted that there were artificial flowers place around a crab apple tree with a plaque in the memory of Catherine Webster. After some discussion a motion was made by Ms. Ruffner and seconded by Mr. Damsell to not allow artificial plants be place in the Parkway. The vote passed 3 in favor.

There was also a suggestion of another rain garden spot between the hill and Norris Brook in an area that gets wet in heavy rains. Ms. Corson pointed out that if there were rain gardens put in the Parkway that they could be used as a learning tool.

The group then looked at the placement of the bench voted in for Mr. Mroz and in doing so it was suggested that the bench for Eva L. Goodwin should be moved back from the sidewalk to be in line with the others in that area and that Mr. Mroz bench should be installed in the same line as the others.

As the group continued towards the end of the Parkway Ms. Ruffner expressed concern as to how the planting along Norris Brook looked as the mulch area was full of weeds. Some discussion occurred around the care of this area and the bed along the other side of the brook along with the repair of the wall along the brook's banking.

The group then proceeded to the other side of Norris Brook where there was discussion of using this area for benches. We also discussed that the construction was done at the end of the Parkway and soil and seed had been installed. Mr. Berube said we would look at this area in the spring for settlement and that there were still 2 trees to be installed to replace the 2 that were removed. There was some discussion about the variety and placement of the trees but no decision was made at this time. We would wait until spring to make a final decision on this matter.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Staples and seconded by Mr. Damsell passed 3 yes. Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Dwane Staples Chair