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**Town of Exeter  
Swasey Parkway Trustees  
Virtual Meeting  
April 7, 2021  
Approved Minutes**

Meeting ID: 842 831 9896

Report Technical Issues: (603) 418-6425

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Staples read the preamble concerning the emergency order and called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. Chair Staples asked the Trustees to identify themselves by roll call and note whether they were alone in the room in accordance with the Right to Know law.

**Present were:** Chair Dwane Staples, Vice-Chair Darius Thompson, Dave Short and Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Surman, Select Board Representative

**2. Public Comment:** Ms. Oliff reminded the public if they had a comment on an agenda item to wait until that point in the meeting.

**3. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair**

*Mr. Short nominated Dwane Staples as Chair. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Short – aye, Thompson – aye and Mr. Staples who accepted the nomination voted aye. The motion passed 3-0-0.*

*Mr. Thompson offered to serve as Vice-Chair. Chair Staples seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken Short – aye, Staples – aye and Mr. Thompson who accepted the nomination voted aye. The motion passed 3-0-0.*

**4. Yoga in the Parkway**

Chetana Parmar of 17 Grove Street presented the proposal on behalf of Exeter Power Yoga. The Town was approached about use of the greenspace for one hour a day at noon. Businesses have suffered during the pandemic and the number of attendees at the studio is limited and the number would be limited at the greenspace. A risk assessment was completed and the studio and teachers have insurance where they teach. An application was sent to Greg at Parks & Recreation and Mr. Short was copied.

Mr. Short asked if participants were being charged and Ms. Parmar answered affirmatively. Mr. Thompson clarified it was a for-profit business and the current rules are that a non-profit can have a one day event and rent the space for a maximum of six days per calendar year at \$100/day. A for-profit can have an event for \$150 and rent the space for a maximum of six calendar days per year with the exception of the long-established Farmer's Market. The Trustees discourage provide an advantage or disadvantage to any one group. The guidelines should be adhered to.

42 Chair Staples noted the proposal is counter to what the Trust is about – use by a business that  
43 is charging for service there. There is a permitting process in place. Ms. Parmar noted Tracy  
44 submitted the paperwork on Monday.

45 Mr. Short noted it is a Select Board decision. Permitting has gone to the Select Board and  
46 Recreation. Mr. Short noted he has no problems with the use personally but does have  
47 concerns about precedent.

48 ***Mr. Thompson motioned to affirm the Trustees final review and approval of any***  
49 ***permitting and plans for using the green space. Mr. Thompson withdrew the motion.***

50 Mr. Short asked why the matter was before the Trustees and Ms. Oliff noted the rules do not  
51 allow use by a for-profit business which is why it was pushed back to the Trustees for their  
52 opinion. No one is certain what can be done on a short-term basis.

53 ***Chair Staples motioned to stick with the permitting process as it stands now. Mr.***  
54 ***Thompson seconded the motion.***

55 Chair Staples agreed he was hesitant to open it up as for the precedent that would set. There is  
56 no guidance as to who can be approved and not leaving the decision random. A lot of hard  
57 work went into the permitting rules.

58 ***A roll call vote was taken Staples – aye, Short – nay and Thompson – aye. The motion***  
59 ***passed 2-1-0.***

60 Mr. Short clarified that he mostly agreed. The proposal should go back to the Select Board with  
61 the advice not to set precedent.

62 Ms. Parmar noted she understood the Trustees were agreeing the rules in place need to be  
63 adhered to and expressed her disappointment with the inability to make exception to help small  
64 business during the pandemic.

## 65 **5. Pocket Park Update**

66 Chair Staples reported attending the Select Board meeting where the design for the pocket park  
67 was presented. The location has not been determined and depends on the road closure. There  
68 is an alternate site proposed down by where the tree was cut the other day. They were given  
69 approval to start fundraising.

70 Mr. Thompson asked about maintenance and Chair Staples noted they have a fund. Mr. Short  
71 noted Renee has offered proceeds from her book to establish maintenance. The Trustees  
72 discussed accessibility at both locations.

73

## 74 **6. Road Closure**

75

76 Chair Staples noted he would like to meet with the Select Board to discuss options in the form of  
77 a compromise concerning the road closure in the Parkway. He has talked with many who have  
78 parents who enjoy a ride to the parkway. The Trustees agreed the road is often used as a cut-  
79 through and speeders are dangerous. The road is closed during the pandemic until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

80

81 Mr. Short noted a compromise could be to establish parking at the far end, not through traffic.  
82 Mr. Thompson recommended having a small turnaround, not as far as the bandstand. There  
83 should be AEDs and life preservers for emergencies. Response can take longer with the road  
84 closed.

85  
86 The Trustees agreed it would like to have Ms. Oliff ask the Select Board to meet with them and  
87 be involved in the decision.

88

## 89 **7. Volunteer Trash Pick-up**

90

91 Chair Staples thanked the volunteers who picked up trash in the Parkway on Saturday as a  
92 community service. Trash is carry in//carry out but has been a challenge there. The volunteers  
93 are interested in coming back again and will send an email.

94

95 Mr. Thompson asked if there was signage and Chair Staples noted there used to be and the  
96 Trustees have talked about getting a kiosk where rules could be posted.

97

## 98 **8. Duties of the Trustees**

99 Chair Staples noted he has received correspondence over the years about the roles of Trustees  
100 and there was an MOU signed. The Trustees asked Ms. Oliff if she would go back to the Select  
101 Board to recommend meeting with the Trustees to discuss their responsibilities. The Trustees  
102 agreed it would draft a document to present. The Parkway needs renovations in the near future  
103 and it is important to define what the Trustees can and can't do.

## 104 **9. Other Business**

105 Mr. Thompson noted John will try to get spring clean-up started earlier than the 20<sup>th</sup>.

106 Mr. Thompson noted the lawn area across from the pavilion and multiple other areas need work.  
107 Chair Staples recommended addressing those in the fall.

108 The Board commended Mark Damsell and thanked him for his hard work over the years.

109 Mr. Thompson advocated for the use of rain barrels whenever possible during the drought.

110 Mr. Thompson noted there was a site walk/emergency meeting on Sunday regarding the tree  
111 removal which was recorded. Mr. Glowacky asked if someone would email the recording to him  
112 so he could post it.

113 **Next Meeting Date:** April 28, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

114 Chair Staples noted the next meeting would be a site walk with Mark Damsell who would like to  
115 do some planting with drought resistant perennials by the rock at the Newfields entrance.

## 116 **10. Adjournment:**

117 ***Chair Staples motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. Mr. Thompson seconded the***  
118 ***motion. A roll call vote was taken Staples – aye, Thompson – aye and Short – aye. The***  
119 ***motion passed 3-0-0.***

120 Respectfully submitted,

121

122 Daniel Hoijer

123 Recording Secretary

124 (via *ExeterTv.com*)