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Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees
July 21, 2021
Draft Minutes

6 **1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Staples called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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8 **2. Introductions:**

9 **Present were:** Chair Dwane Staples, Vice-Chair Darius Thompson, and Dave Short.

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11 **3. Public Comment**

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13 Mark Damsel of Newfields Road discussed the rules pertaining to the grant raised by Greg
14 Bisson at the Select Board meeting. There is a plaque in the Block Building that states
15 "National Register of Parks". Chair Staples will reach out to Mr. Bisson for more information.

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17 **4. Approve Meeting Minutes 6/30/2021, 7/7/2021**

18 ***Mr. Short motioned to approve the June 30, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Thompson***
19 ***seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed***
20 ***unanimously.***

21 ***Mr. Thompson motioned to approve the July 7, 2021 Site Walk meeting minutes. Mr.***
22 ***Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed***
23 ***unanimously.***

24 **5. Update of road closure**

25 Chair Staples reported the Select Board decided Monday night to bring forward the process to
26 made the road one-way. They will have three public hearings with the final being August 16th.
27 They voted to keep the road closed until September 6, 2021. Chair Staples noted he hopes
28 people will vote to make it a one way when it opens on September 6th.

29 Mr. Short recommended having signage to address speeding and possible put up a small radar
30 trailer that flashes vehicle speeds and get the Police Department's opinion on effectiveness.

31 **6. Tree work, number of trees, bids, how to manage this**

32 Chair Staples noted the Trustees met on the July 7, 2021 Site Walk to identify trees that needed
33 removal and pruning. 29 trees were marked with white dots for removal and 9 for pruning
34 marked with faded yellow dots. There were a couple of additional trees which are questionable
35 the Trustees agreed would be kept separate.

36 Chair Staples noted an arborist can do an independent evaluation of those trees that are
37 questionable. Mr. Short will get the name of the arborist. There is also a need to do pruning from
38 the Block Building to the sidewalk on Sargent's Hill which will be separate so three items. Chair
39 Staples welcomed public comment and offered that the Trustees are available to explain the

40 reasoning for removal of certain trees. Mr. Short noted those trees are a hazard or going to
41 become a hazard shortly.

42 Mr. Thompson will put together a proposal. The various tree companies can do a site walk. The
43 Trustees will meet with interested contractors on Friday, September 17th so they will understand
44 the specifications and understand what the Trustees want done. Mr. Short noted it should be a
45 cold weather project in October when no events are scheduled in the Parkway. Mr. Thompson
46 asked if the schedule of events was received and Chair Staples noted he usually receives it the
47 first of the month but has not seen anything yet. He will reach out to Mr. Bisson. The road may
48 need closure for some of the work and Police, Fire and DPW notified.

49 Mr. Short reported the Tree Committee attended the Conservation Commission's meeting and
50 will be bringing forth a Tree Ordinance. The ordinance is not in place yet but seems reasonable.
51 They will have public meetings with the Select Board before that is voted on by the public.
52 Chair Staples and Mr. Thompson will review the proposed ordinance which is on the webpage.
53 Memorial Trees can be addressed and there are four who have asked and some of those could
54 replace some of those being removed. Mr. Short asked if his recommendations on variety of
55 trees (working at Stratham Nursery) may be a conflict. Chair Staples will find out. Chris Kemp
56 from Piscataqua also recommended a few trees. Mr. Short noted that will tolerate saline flood.
57 Mr. Short asked what year the Parkway flooded, was it within the last ten years and the
58 Trustees agreed it had flooded within the last ten years.

59 Jay Perkins the tree warden can be involved. Chair Staples can reach out to him. The Trustees
60 can invite him to a meeting to see if he is interested.

61 **7. Other Business – Master Plan**

62 Mr. Thompson questioned whether the Trustees should begin work on the Master Plan despite
63 a comment made about the Select Board's ability to disband the Trust, to get a loose framework
64 together and perhaps leave behind a legacy and offered to get that started. Chair Staples noted
65 the Board does have the authority to disband the Trust. Documents are posted on the website.

66 Mr. Short would like to finish the roadway, trees and know the status of the Trust first and
67 hesitates to put new trees in unless the removals leave big voids. Existing conditions should be
68 established for the Master Plan.

69 Chair Staples noted he has not reached out to other departments, Parks & Recreation, DPW
70 yet. Information concerning the LCWF grant rules of renovations raised by Greg Bisson should
71 be included in the Master Plan going forward.

72 Chair Staples would like to reach out to the organic people first as that will be both a current and
73 ongoing plan to improve and manage soils without fertilizer and may take time. Soil samples
74 were taken but need to be done differently. He will reach out to Organic First.

75 Mr. Thompson will follow-up on the status of the code enforcement officer's review of the
76 electrical issues raised at the July 12, 2021 Select Board meeting and speak to Finance for an
77 accounting of the grant the Town received for the kiosk. Mr. Short noted he had another donor
78 for the kiosk.

79 Chair Staples reported he received another email about noise and will forward it. This also
80 needs to be addressed in the Master Plan.

81 **8. Adjourn**

82 **Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, August 18th, 2021 at 6:00 PM. The September meeting
83 will be changed to the 22nd.

84 ***Mr. Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Mr. Short seconded the***
85 ***motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

86 Respectfully submitted,

87

88 Daniel Hoijer
89 Recording Secretary
90 (via *ExeterTv.com*)

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92 *Zoom link for this meeting: 865 7642 7965*