

**Town of Exeter  
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting  
Nowak Room  
December 30, 2021  
Approved Minutes**

- **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Staples called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- **Introductions:**  
**Present were:** Chair Dwane Staples and Dave Short

Select Board members present at their meeting were: Chair Niko Papakonstantis
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- **Public Comment**

Mark Damsell stated that having the roadway open one-way at the Parkway has dramatically slowed down motorists and cut throughs. He opined that the one-way reopening has been a good option to keep the Parkway open to vehicular traffic.

- **Approve Meeting Minutes – Tabled**

**10/20/2021**

**10/26/2021**

Chair Staples made note that the 10/26/2021 Site Walk did not occur. It was raining and no one came.

**11/19/2021**

## **5. Swasey Discussion, Road with Selectboard Chair, LCWF**

Chair Staples noted that Jay Perkins provided ideas in the Select Board packet concerning the roadway which has been an ongoing topic of discussion in Select Board meetings. He invited Select Board Chair Papakonstantis to provide an update to the Trustees.

Select Board Chair Papakonstantis noted that in Spring of 2020 when the Governor issued the Executive Order the Parkway was closed to vehicular traffic. When the Executive Order ended in June of 2021 the Select Board reconsidered the roadway opening for reasons of public safety. Some residents have expressed interest in favor of other options through public hearings and emails. The Select Board will take up the matter again on their Monday, January 3, 2022 agenda and have invited the Trustees. They will consider the other options, time and cost involved. A lot more people are not able to enjoy the Parkway when the road is closed because they cannot get in and out. The solution should be feasible, legally and/or as infrastructure. Highway Superintendent Jay Perkins of the Exeter DPW provided suggestions by email. He

noted the proposed roundabout at the Newfields Road entrance may not be possible. The Water Street entrance has a couple of prohibitions also. A portion is LCWF land and State permits would be needed due to the water. Speed tables (not bumps), like those used at the Lincoln Street School would be agreeable for plowing and emergency vehicles. Some concerns were expressed with bicycle and stroller safety but no incidents reported at the School. Speed tables would be inexpensive, a couple of thousand dollars. Another proposal was to add sidewalk to the right of the Newfields entrance 5' in on both sides but due to the anticipated cost, \$50,000-\$60,000 it would need to go to Town Meeting as a Warrant Article. Even if the Warrant Article were to pass, there would be additional legal obstacles.

Mr. Papakonstantis noted that he would like to see as many folks as possible be able to enjoy the Parkway safely.

Chair Staples noted he was in favor of speed tables to slow down traffic and likes the sidewalk idea to a point such as a hybrid so that it is not in every section so that the pavilion green space could stay green. A caller into one of the meetings proposed delineating the area along the curbing for use by pedestrians which could be done by painting or some other means. The DPW staff could do the delineation work quickly and the speed tables with minimal cost to enhance safety. Mr. Short agreed the Parkway was safer now with the one-way traffic but adding safety enhancements would lessen conflict.

Mr. Short noted the sidewalk hybrid doesn't appeal to him as people zigging on and off the pavement would leave drivers unaware or confused, plus the cost is not attractive. The one-way functions well and there has been surprisingly little traffic. A couple of thousand spent on speed tables would be money well spent.

Chair Staples noted closing the roadway should be off the table. Mr. Short agreed it is not equitable. Chair Staples noted the Trustees will attend on Monday.

Chair Staples reported that he has spoken with Greg Bisson of Parks & Recreation who researched the kiosk grant. The Town received funds for improvements and there was to be a kiosk. The proposal for the kiosk was amended twice and then the third amendment it was decided the Town would pay for that. Expenditures overran. It was up to the Town to pay for the kiosk.

Mr. Short asked about the granite posts and guardrail that were hit by a car. Chair Staples reported that the contractor is getting pricing; the posts are odd and there are supply issues but once he receives the pricing it will be submitted to the insurance company to move forward.

Mark Damsell noted he was in favor of the speed tables and delineation and would like to keep the green space green by the pavilion.

## **6. Tree Work Bid Specs Document - Tabled**

Chair Staples noted the final draft has not been done. Mr. Thompson is working on it. Mr. Short asked if the final draft could be emailed out when it is done. Chair Staples will reach out to Mr. Thompson.

## **7. Other Business**

Chair Staples indicated he would set up the next meeting. One bid was received for 2022 Maintenance from the current contractor with a small price increase within range. The contractor was notified that the contract was awarded to them. Mr. Short noted they did a good job.

## **8. Adjourn**

***Mr. Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. Chair Staples seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

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