

1
2
3
4
5
6

**Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
Nowak Meeting Room
September 21, 2022
Approved Minutes**

- 7 • **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Staples called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and
8 introduced the members who were present
9

10 • **Introductions:**

11 **Present were:** Chair Dwane Staples, Vice-Chair Darius Thompson, Dave Short, and
12 Select Board Representative Niko Papakonstantis
13

14 • **Public Comment**

15 Chair Staples asked if there were any comments from the public at 5:30 PM.

16 Richard Rollins of Dogtown Road expressed concerns relative to the Article 33 vote and
17 status with the Attorney General and dissolution of the Trust. He wanted to be sure the
18 Trustees were informed and wondered if he could get documents from the Select Board. He
19 noted concerns that by the time a decision is announced its too late. He expressed that he
20 didn't see why the Parkway had to be closed as there were no problems with vehicles and
21 people should be able to drive in and park and enjoy the Park. The Park is already closed
22 during events.

23 Chair Staples responded that Article 33 was on the Town Ballot to close the Parkway. The
24 next step is to hear from the Attorney General as to the interpretation of "open to traffic" and
25 there has been no response. The Trustees affirmed their position on the three options
26 available which were two-way traffic, one-way traffic, in but not through, and while the
27 Trustees liked the second option, the extreme is what got voted for. It doesn't preclude cars
28 from coming in via access on one end with a turn around with closures on the most
29 desirable end. Mr. Thompson noted he was in favor of one-way with some jersey barriers to
30 narrow access and slow vehicles down and improve walking traffic. He noted the Parkway
31 will be closed for the syphon project and Jady Hill sewer project.

32 Select Board Representative Papakonstantis responded that there have been several joint
33 public meetings with the Trustees. The Select Board voted to put the Article on the Warrant
34 for the voters to decide. There was nothing in the Article about dissolving the Trust. The
35 Select Board has had the authority to dissolve the Trust since 1979. The Select Board has
36 asked the Town Manager for periodic updates concerning a response from the Attorney
37 General and the next step will be the Probate Court. There is a packet for the Select Board
38 meeting on the website and meeting minutes.

39 Mr. Short noted the Trustees have been kept in the loop. Chair Staples and Mr. Thompson
40 agreed.
41

42 • **Approve Meeting Minutes**

43

44 **8-24-2022**

45 ***Mr. Short motioned to approve the August 24, 2022 minutes. Mr. Thompson***
46 ***seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed***
47 ***unanimously.***

48 • **Planting along fence behind Harris Center**

49 Chair Staples asked Mr. Short if he had a chance to reach out to DPW about the stumps and
50 Mr. Short indicated he has not but wondered if the one stump on the corner by the fence could
51 be cut flush to the ground and left as there will not be any planting there and no cost benefit.

52 Chair Staples indicated that the site should be revisited and recommended a site walk for the
53 next meeting on October 19th. There will need to be more tree work due to drought conditions
54 and other possible safety issues. The Trustees agreed to hold off on planting in the fall due to
55 dry conditions.

56 ***Mr. Thompson motioned to revisit the stumps and trees to be assessed by site walk at***
57 ***the next meeting, October 19th at 4 PM.***

58 Mr. Thompson indicated the meeting would be open to the public.

59 • **Maintenance Bids for 2023 Season**

60

61 Chair Staples indicated he would work with Pam to get the RFP published and noticed to run
62 the week of October 17th and opened early November. Notifications would be mid-December.

63

64 Mr. Thompson noted he would be out of town October 28th to November 4th and questioned
65 what their options would be if no bids were received. Mr. Papakonstantis noted this has
66 occurred with the Select Board on other issues and the RFP was rebid.

67

68 • **Parkway Events Notification and Contact Information**

69

70 Chair Staples apologized for the confusion on the wording of the agenda and clarified that he
71 was looking to get event schedule information sooner and contact information. He noted that
72 most events are cleaned up well and timely but there was one where the Thursday following
73 Farmer's Market the flags and barriers were left up and he called Greg.

74

75 • **Other Business**

76

77 Mr. Thompson asked about signage and aeration. The Trustees had agreed to hold off on
78 aeration due to the dry conditions but Chair Staples noted it was time to talk to some
79 companies. Mr. Thompson questioned whether the Trustees could put together the stencils for
80 the no dog silhouettes to be placed at ground level.

81

82 Mr. Papakonstantis reported he discussed enforcement of the ordinance with Chief Poulin who
83 indicated the Department patrols the Parkway regularly and offenses are complaint driven and
84 by observation. One issue is that service dogs don't have to show certification. Officers have
85 the right to ask what illness is and if the dog is certified and trained but the individual does not
86 have to answer. Mr. Thompson reminded the ordinance is in effect and people should do the
87 right thing.

88

89 • **Next Meeting:** Site Walk Meeting at Parkway October 19, 2022 at 4 PM. Start at Water
90 Street Entrance.

91

92 • **Adjourn**

93 ***Mr. Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 PM. Mr. Thompson seconded the***
94 ***motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

95 Respectfully submitted,

96 Daniel Hoijer
97 Recording Secretary
98 (via *ExeterTv.com*)