

**Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
May 17, 2023
5:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Staples called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM and introduced the members who were present

2. Introductions:

Present were: Chair Dwane Staples, Vice-Chair Darius Thompson, Dave Short and Select Board representative Niko Papakonstantis

3. Public Comment

Chair Staples asked if there were any comments from the public at 5:01 PM and there were none.

4. Approve Minutes 4/19/23

Chair Staples motioned to approve the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Planting along fence behind Harris Center and Tree and Shrub Pruning

Chair Staples recommended a site walk for the next meeting.

Mr. Short recommended some of the materials could be donated like with tree donations.

6. Sewer Project

Select Board Representative Niko Papakonstantis reported the change order to lock the price was signed and executed. Drilling began a week ago Tuesday. The pilot bore has gone 190.' Rock drilling began two days ago. Two 10" pipes were cut. The gravel ramp and walkway were worked on. The contractor condensed the construction area to leave room for the Farmer's Market. Monday evening the Select Board authorized the Town Manager to request a Special Town Meeting at Superior Court. If it passes the financing, drilling would be in October or November. The cost would be somewhat less than the first one. There would be a similar lump sum agreement with a fixed price. They would not be paid if not successful. The first public hearing is proposed to take place June 26th for the warrant article with the election on August 15th. The voting must be done by September 1st so the price won't go up.

7. Bench Additions

Chair Staples reported five or six requests for benches and that he let them know the Trustees voted a few years ago not to add any more benches.

Mr. Thompson asked if the reason was that there wasn't enough room and Chair Staples indicated to keep adding them would take away from the space and the feel of the parkway. He said currently there are 53-55 benches.

Mr. Thompson asked about sharing the bench memorials and Chair Staples noted that it goes against the intent and the only exception would be if there were a bench in disrepair and the family members could not be found.

The Trustees unanimously agreed not to revisit the vote not to add anymore benches at this time.

8. Tree Donations

Chair Staples reported an email received from Greg Bisson concerning someone who wanted to donate trees. Mr. Short recommended asking if they would be interested in donating materials for planting behind the Harris Center which is the most obvious current need.

9. Water Bottle Fill Station

Chair Staples reported the funding mechanism was a challenge as a 501c3 is needed to get the granting funding for the installation. Team offered. Mr. Short will follow up with Christine as to why she is not pursuing that. Mr. Short asked who would pay for water and noted the usage could be 300 gallons per month.

Mr. Thompson asked about signage relative to the 501c3. Mr. Short noted that he had no problem with that, but Selectman Papakonstantis indicated there is a policy and it would depend upon the level of donation, etc. He noted that Parks & Recreation had installed filling stations at all the parks and this year would be somewhat of an experiment as far as budgeting for the use. He noted he would research it further but needed to know the amount first.

Mr. Thompson asked what would happen in the event of drought. Selectman Papakonstantis noted that DPW would recommend the level of restriction.

10. Other Business

Chair Staples asked Mr. Thompson if he would follow up on the no dogs stencil for the two sidewalk entrances to the parkway. DPW will be asked to paint the stencil.

Chair Staples asked Selectman Papakonstantis if the electric budget could be increased to \$1,200. Selectman Papakonstantis will talk to the Town Manager.

Selectman Papakonstantis reported that there could be a two-year RFP for maintenance provided the language that it is contingent upon money being in the budget is in the RFP document.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be a site walk meeting on June 21, 2023.

12. Adjourn

Mr. Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 PM. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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