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**Town of Exeter  
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting  
Wheelright Room  
August 23, 2023  
5:00 PM  
Approved Minutes**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

9 Chair Staples called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and introduced the members who were  
10 present  
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**2. Introductions:**

13 **Present were:** Chair Dwane Staples, Vice-Chair Darius Thompson, Dave Short and  
14 Select Board representative Niko Papakonstantis  
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**3. Public Comment**

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18 Chair Staples asked if there were any comments from the public. Mark Damsell expressed  
19 concerns with some lawns not being mowed and tidying up needed near construction areas. He  
20 noted the river side of the fence should be trimmed weekly or every other week. There are  
21 dead Winterberry and overgrown brush.  
22

23 Chair Staples noted he walked the Parkway with Andy from Wright Pierce to target some areas.  
24 Mowing won't be done around construction signs. An email was sent concerning the Pump  
25 House lawn. Mr. Short will talk to John about trimming the spot by the entrance. He  
26 recommended the street sweeper make a pass to remove any debris and sediment along the  
27 curbing. Mr. Damsell indicated he saw the sweeper come the day before.  
28

29 Florence Ruffner expressed concerns with traffic closure at the Water Street end. Chair Staples  
30 indicated there should be barriers put down by the Pavilion and signs. He noted a second  
31 siphon project is planned. Mr. Damsell noted he missed being able to drive on the Parkway.  
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33 Mr. Damsell thanked the Trustees for their service to the Town and the Trustees thanked Mr.  
34 Damsell for his assistance over the years.

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**4. Approve Minutes 7/19/23**

36 ***Chair Staples motioned to approve the July 19, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr.***  
37 ***Thompson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion***  
38 ***passed unanimously.***  
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**5. Arts and Culture Committee Presentation**

41 Florence Ruffner and other members of the Arts & Culture Committee presented a proposal to  
42 donate a stone art sculpture by artist Joseph Gray, to the Parkway where it could prominently  
43 be displayed. The Committee plans to have a tour of sculptures throughout Exeter.

44 Chair Staples expressed concerns with installing this sculpture when many have been turned  
45 away who wanted a memorial bench. Ms. Ruffner asked if a different sculpture or location  
46 would be suitable so that the Parkway could participate. Mr. Short recommended putting the  
47 eagle sculpture by the entry gate where it could be seen by those entering the Parkway and  
48 passersby. The Committee was receptive to that idea and the Trustees conveyed that they  
49 would be receptive to having a sculpture placed somewhere where a tree did not grow well and  
50 noted two potential areas by the pavilion and the flagpole once the Parkway has gotten past  
51 construction.

52 Mr. Thompson asked the size of the sculpture – approx 5’8” x 36” sitting on two big stones. He  
53 asked if it had any sharp edges – it is rough stone but has no sharp edges. Mr. Thompson  
54 asked if the sculpture would be permanent – yes.

55 Select Board Representative Papakonstantis explained to the Committee the process for  
56 submitting the proposal to the Town Manager and getting on the Select Board agenda to accept  
57 the donation and recommended having details about moving and installation. Ms. Ruffner will  
58 discuss the location with Parks & Recreation also. The Trustees thanked the donor who was  
59 present at the meeting.

## 60 **6. Update on no dog sign**

61 Chair Staples reported that the Trustees decided they would like Mr. Thompson to make the no  
62 dog stencil sign larger. Mr. Thompson explained what the stencil would look like when he  
63 finished it and how it would be spraypainted, so it is visible in the two pathways at ground level.

## 64 **7. Planting along fence behind Harris Center and Tree and Shrub Pruning**

65 Mr. Short indicated the cost, approved at \$1,500, would be closer to \$1,000. Mr. Short will  
66 contact the company to get started and let Jay know when work will commence.

67 ***Mr. Thompson motioned to authorize Mr. Short to contract the work with the vendor.***  
68 ***Chair Staples seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.***

## 69 **8. Sewer Project**

70 Select Board Representative Papakonstantis reported on the special warrant article which  
71 passed to approve the second siphon project. He reported that the first pipe was installed  
72 successfully and is testing well. He thanked the voters who came out to support the project and  
73 the Trustees for reporting on the work at their meetings and educating the public. He reported  
74 the second project should start in late fall and not interfere with the holiday parade but will report  
75 back at the next meeting.

## 76 **9. Tree Pruning**

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78 The Trustees discussed trees that needed pruning and Chair Staples agreed to follow up with  
79 Chris Kemp on the Emerald Ash Borer treatments. Injections have had some success.  
80 Parasitic wasps are also being utilized to help younger growth trees. Mr. Thompson questioned  
81 why not do both and it was noted that one could be done or the other but not both.  
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84 **10. Other Business**

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86 **11. Next Meeting Date**

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88 Chair Staples indicated the next meeting will be on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

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90 **12. Adjourn**

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92 ***Chair Staples motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 PM. Mr. Thompson seconded the***  
93 ***motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

94 Respectfully submitted,

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