

**Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
Nowak Room
March 19, 2025
4:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Staples called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and introduced the members who were present

2. Introductions:

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

Others Present: Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative, Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment, outside of agenda items.

4. Approval of Minutes

January 15, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes

Mr. Thompson motioned to approve the January 15, 2025 minutes. Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

5. Election of Officers

Mr. Thompson congratulated Mr. Staples on his re-election to the Board.

Mr. Thompson motioned to appoint Mr. Staples as Chair of the Trustees. Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Short motioned to appoint Mr. Thompson as Vice-Chair of the Trustees. Chair Staples seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

6. Kristen Murphy Presentation

Conservation and Sustainability Planner Kristen Murphy reported that the town was awarded the Coastal Resiliency Grant from NH Department of Environmental Services to fund a document to design long term sea level and climate changes at Swasey Parkway. She described the small committee that would work with the consultant and meet with the public.

45 She asked for a representative from the Trustees. Mr. Short indicated he was available and
46 Chair Staples indicated he was interested but would get back to her shortly before the meeting.
47 Chair Staples asked if there would be a representative from the community and Ms. Murphy
48 indicated there would be engagement with the community but she was not sure it was required.
49 She noted that either the Town Manager or Assistant Town Manager would attend and Select
50 Board Representative Papakonstantis indicated he will be serving on the committee.

51
52 Ms. Murphy noted that the Meaningful Engagement training would take place on March 26th.
53 Mr. Thompson asked if the training session would be recorded and Ms. Murphy will find out.
54 Mark Damsell asked if he could attend and Ms. Murphy indicated that he could attend the
55 committee's meetings that were open to the public, she did not think the training session, which
56 was for municipal associations who were awarded the coastal resiliency grant, was open to the
57 public. Mr. Damsell noted he would like to be involved as much as possible as his property
58 abuts the Parkway.

59
60 Mr. Thompson recommended the design conceptualizes not just the 100-year flood or 200-year
61 but takes a look at the impact of 1000-year. Mr. Short noted the impact of sea level rise to the
62 Parkway impacts all the way to businesses on Water Street.

63
64 Ms. Murphy referenced the CAPE study or Climate Action Plan for Exeter that was done in 2010
65 or 2012 and indicated she would like to re-engage. She noted there was some flagging and will
66 send the link.

67 68 **7. Update on Turn Around and Input received from public**

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70 Chair Staples asked if anyone had received feedback concerning the new turnaround. Mr.
71 Thompson noted that he visited with his full-sized pick up truck and found it a little bit tight. He
72 noted that prior to where the lines are marked is not wide enough for three cars.

73
74 Chair Staples noted he received feedback about one challenge which was parking on the
75 backside of the turnaround and being able to get around it.

76
77 Chair Staples recommended being patient since the turnaround was just put in in November
78 and adjustments could be made as necessary.

79
80 Mr. Thompson indicated it was great to see reflective stickers on the gates.

81 82 **8. Tree & Shrub Pruning**

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84 Chair Staples noted some trees were done in January and there will likely be more branches to
85 clean up before the end of the winter.

86
87 Mr. Short recommended getting information to John about the key. Chair Staples will reach out
88 to him.

Chair Staples noted it has been a few years since shrubs were pruned and clean-up should be done this year. Mr. Thompson indicated he could help with pruning with direction and guidance. Chair Staples recommended getting a couple of Winterthur viburnum to plant along the Academy fence.

9. Plans for the upcoming year

Chair Staples noted that the Trustees discussed reaching out to the Tree Committee to talk about replacing trees across from the pavilion. Mr. Short will reach out to them.

10. Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2025

11. Adjourn

Mr. Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 PM. Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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