

**Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
Nowak Room
June 18, 2025
5:00 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: Select Board Representative Niko Papakonstantis

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment, outside of agenda items.

4. Approval of Minutes

May 21, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes

Mr. Short motioned to approve the May 21 2025 minutes. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

May 24, 2025 Site Walk Minutes

Mr. Thompson motioned to approve the May 24, 2025 Site Walk minutes. Mr. Staples seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Coastal Resiliency Meaningful Engagement Training

Chair Staples indicated that he will not be available to meet next week and asked Mr. Thompson to step in for him. He will forward the email from Kristen Murphy. There are three bid packages which he provided to Mr. Thompson for contractors to be selected. All have worked with the town before. One suggested doing away with the roadway being blocked.

Mark Damsell asked what the bids were for and Chair Staples explained that it was for the future plan to handle flooding at the Parkway. Chair Staples noted a future component would be input from the Trustees, Select Board and the Public.

6. Update on Turn Around and Input received from public

Mr. Thompson noted the wet section is still there.

Chair Staples recommended a site walk in the fall or meeting with the Select Board. Mr. Papakonstantis suggested having a site walk with the four present and then going to the Select Board. Chair Staples noted that when he was there this weekend there were people using the parkway and the turnaround was working fine. He noted the porta potty has not been moved and suspects that Parks & Recreation need to drive on the pavement to access stuff that is stored in the building. Mr. Thompson noted visitors have to walk through the wet area to get to it.

7. Tree Committee Recommendations

Mr. Short reported that he walked the area with Gwen English and they are working on monumentation and confirming species. Chair Staples noted there was a concrete post sticking up with the sign missing. Chair Staples noted the Trustees talked about doing trees in the fall.

8. Graffiti on Block Building

Mr. Thompson reported that with help from Kathy, the painting is completed. He donated some solar activated lights to attach to the building. He recommended adding some surveillance cameras. Chair Staples recommended painting a mural on the front of the building. Mr. Papakonstantis recommended going before the Select Board and asking the Town Manager about any art or building policies. Mr. Thompson recommended having an annual contest. Mr. Damsell liked the mural concept and recommended putting something on the side facing the lawn area to recognize and thank Ambrose Swasey who made the park. Mr. Short recommended asking the train guy to paint something.

Mr. Thompson asked to clarify if the block building is owned by the trustees who funded it and pay for the electricity. Chair Staples will go in and see if there is a breaker. He noted the budget lists the item as streetlights so he will check.

9. Streetlights

Chair Staples confirmed that the streetlights are on from dusk til dawn on an electric eye and it has always been that way. The Parkway is closed from dusk until dawn. He questioned with the road closure how it would be enforced. Mr. Short noted the lights should stay on for safety. Mr. Thompson noted that bikes and other electric vehicles should not be on the sidewalk although there is reflective tape on the gates.

10. Shrub Care

Chair Staples noted it has been two years since pruning was done and some shrubs need to be replanted in the fall. Mr. Thompson reported that the two maples growing in the shrubs were removed. He pruned the river birch and put plywood where the trees were removed. He

recommended going back and filling it with sand and sawdust. Chair Staples noted there were some grindings behind the Academy daycare.

11. Other Business

Chair Staples authorized Frankie of Mission Turf to do the chemical grub treatment which had to be timed with rain fall. He used a pet and people safe product.

Mr. Thompson recommended having gate closure responsibility be added to the event applications. He noted after an event he witnessed both gates left open and 3-4 cars going through the closed road. He will send an email to Mr. Papakonstantis and has already talked to Greg about it. He recommended a barricade with a road closed sign for a while and that vendors put cones down when the gate needs to be open.

Mr. Short asked to talk to John about trimming and mowing. Chair Staples noted a rough spot where a tree had been which needs to be graded by the bench. Chair Staples will get a price for grading. Mr. Thompson noted the speed of the mowers seemed fast to do proper cutting. Mr. Short noted there were some detail work that wasn't great.

Mr. Thompson reminded visitors not to place painted rocks on the lawn or benches because it creates a safety hazard while mowing. Chair Staples agreed that they can become a projectile and the Trustees have had difficulties with the rocks being left in the past.

12. Next Meeting Date: July 16, 2025

13. Adjourn

Mr. Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 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*)