

**Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
Nowak Room
August 20, 2025
5:00 PM
Draft 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 Papakonstantis

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment, outside of agenda items.

4. Approval of Minutes

June 18, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes

Chair Staples recommended edits to lines 74 and 95.

Mr. Thompson motioned to approve the June 18, 2025 minutes, as amended. Mr. Short seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.

Chair Staples noted there was no quorum on July 16, 2025.

5. Swasey Trustee Bequest/Peter Lennon (remotely)

Peter Lennon, Chair of the Trustee of Trust Funds gave a brief history of the \$50,000 bequest from Ambrose Swasey in 1929 which was held by Key Bank for the construction and maintenance of the parkway. He explained that the Select Board has the option to ask that the funds be send to the Town of Exeter. He noted that the Trustees voted in favor of doing so and he discussed the same with the Finance Director and would like input and support from the Swasey Parkway Trustees and for them to attend a Select Board meeting in October. He noted that the initial \$50,000 has grown to \$300,000.

Mr. Lennon provided benefits for the decision such as increased oversight, confidence in the town's investment policy, avoiding high fees, consolidating the portfolio, and preservation of

principal. He noted that annual income is currently deposited into the Swasey Parkway Maintenance account four times a year and that would continue to be done annually.

Chair Staples questioned whether the account principal would be the \$50,000 or the \$300,000 and Mr. Lennon noted they could do both but the preference would be \$300,000.

Mr. Lennon noted the benefit of the option of using \$50,000 would be in the event something were planned on a large scale improvement but they did not know of any plans. Chair Staples questioned what the Coastal Resiliency study may come back with.

Mr. Short indicated that it makes sense.

Chair Staples asked if the public had questions or comments and there were none.

Chair Staples motioned to support the moving of current Swasey bequest from Key Bank to the Exeter Select Board for the recommendation of the Trustee of Trust Funds. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Select Board Representative Papakonstantis noted he will get them on the agenda for October.

6. Coastal Resiliency Update

Mr. Thompson noted the meeting is on September 15th.

7. Lawn Area in Front of Fence at Pump Station

Chair Staples noted that Piscataqua is doing the area of the lawn by the Pump Station. There will be a kickoff meeting on August 26th and he will attend that. They will be running temporary irrigation and he discussed that with Steve Dalton to have it cordoned off for hydroseeding. The plywood will be removed by Mr. Thompson this week.

8. Lock Box

Chair Staples reported that the Fire Chief is satisfied with the gate and noted that if someone forgets to put the key back in the lock box they will cut the lock.

9. Update on Turn Around – Input from Public

Mr. Thompson asked about the low spot and Chair Staples noted that they are looking at it and a decision has not been made.

10. Electric Budget

Select Board Representative Papakonstantis noted the draft budget is being put together.

91 **11. Other Business**

92
93 Mr. Thompson asked about moving the porta potty off the grass and onto the pavement.

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95 Mr. Thompson questioned whether there needed to be language in the bid request for
96 adjustments when work is not done. Chair Staples noted the bills were adjusted.

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98 Select Board Representative Papakonstantis noted that the Tree Committee and Conservation
99 will collaborate to celebrate the tree. Chair Staples noted that Mr. Damsell has a picture of the
100 birch when it was small. He will send it to him.

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102 **12. Next Meeting Date: September 17, 2025**

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104 **13. Adjourn**

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106 ***Chair Staples motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 PM. Mr. Thompson seconded the***
107 ***motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

108 Respectfully submitted,

109 Daniel Hoijer
110 Recording Secretary
111 (via *ExeterTv.com*)