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**Town of Exeter
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting
Nowak Room
February 18, 2026
5:00 PM
Draft Minutes**

7 **Members Present:** Chair Dwane Staples, Vice-Chair Dave Short, and Darius Thompson

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9 **Others Present:** Select Board Representative Niko Papakonstantis

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11 **1. Call Meeting to Order**

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

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16 **2. Public Comment**

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18 (unidentified) sent notes last fall about potential plantings and understood the drought conditions
19 so nothing was being planted and asked if they were still interested. Chair Staples indicated
20 they were mostly interested in trees and are working with the Tree Committee and questioned if
21 making a list would be helpful. Mr. Short noted the Tree Committee approached the Trustees
22 about the open area by the pavilion and that native species would be preferable. He noted he
23 will get ahold of Evelyn. There were a couple of other people who contacted him and he stated
24 that this would be revisited in the spring. Mr. Short asked Select Board Representative
25 Papakonstantis if the water ban was still in effect and he indicated yes. Chair Staples noted that
26 while they got a lot of snow they were not getting the right kind of snow with good water content.

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28 The Trustees agreed to plan a site walk in April on their regular meeting date and will include
29 looking at other areas where they can plant.

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31 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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33 **January 21, 2026 Public Meeting Minutes**

34
35 Mr. Short explained that in addition to spring cleanup, he recommended paying the contractor
36 50% of the fall clean up costs because while it couldn't be done in the fall it would mean extra
37 work in the spring. Chair Staples and Mr. Thompson indicated they felt the minutes can be left
38 the way they read, that it was not an issue.

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40 ***Mr. Short motioned to approve the January 21, 2026 minutes. Mr. Thompson seconded***
41 ***the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.***
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44 **4. Coastal Resiliency**

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46 Mr. Thompson reported that the next save the date was March 23rd. Chair Staples asked if the
47 public were invited and if it would be posted, and he indicated yes. Select Board Representative
48 Papakonstantis noted he will mention that at the Select Board meeting.

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50 **5. Pruning**

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52 Chair Staples noted a broken tree that he will take care of after the snow melts.

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54 **6. Academy letter for helping**

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56 Chair Staples reported that he received a letter from the Academy offering help with cleanup,
57 painting and the stencils around the catch basins. Mr. Short indicated painting help was always
58 appreciated. Chair Staples noted the volunteers painted benches a couple of years ago. Mr.
59 Thompson noted the No Dogs Allowed signs were faded. Chair Staples will reach out to them.

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61 **7. Other Business**

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63 Mr. Thompson noted on a couple of occasions he observed the gates had been left open while
64 a contractor was doing something and that cars were going the wrong way. The road is
65 discontinued. He left a message with DPW and recommended to the Trustees that a sign be
66 placed on the gate on both sides and a plastic barricade be used. He asked about language in
67 permitting and noted someone has to close and lock gates. Chair Staples noted he called DPW
68 and they were checking barrels for leaks. There is usually something about traffic control in the
69 specifications. He tried to get language for the use of controls if the gates had to be open. Mr.
70 Thompson noted he was happy to work with Parks & Recreation on that. Select Board
71 Representative Papakonstantis noted it was different if DPW was working. Mr. Short asked
72 about storing cone and barricades. Mr. Thompson noted they could be stored off to the site
73 behind the wall on Water Street and on the other end beside the block building or in the block
74 building.

75
76 Mr. Short recommended posting on top of the post, and leaving it there because the signs would
77 not be visible if the gate were open. Mr. Thompson noted he was not opposed to that and that
78 both ends could be stenciled road closed. Chair Staples agreed it was simple to put a barricade
79 up and will talk to DPW about that.

80 **8. Next Meeting Date: March 18, 2026**

81 **9. Adjourn**

82 ***Mr. Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 PM. Mr. Short seconded the***
83 ***motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

84 Respectfully submitted,

85 Daniel Hoijer
86 Recording Secretary