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

12  
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 Jean Jackson state that she sent notes last fall about potential plantings and understood the  
19 drought conditions so nothing was being planted and asked if they were still interested. Chair  
20 Staples indicated they were mostly interested in trees and are working with the Tree Committee  
21 and questioned if making a list would be helpful. Mr. Short noted the Tree Committee  
22 approached the Trustees about the open area by the pavilion and that native species would be  
23 preferable. He noted he will get ahold of Evelyn. There were a couple of other people who  
24 contacted him and he stated that this would be revisited in the spring. Mr. Short asked Select  
25 Board Representative Papakonstantis if the water ban was still in effect and he indicated yes.  
26 Chair Staples noted that while they got a lot of snow they were not getting the right kind of snow  
27 with good water content.

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

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32 **3. Approval of Minutes**

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

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

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

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

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51 **5. Pruning**

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

54  
55 **6. Academy letter for helping**

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

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62 **7. Other Business**

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

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

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

82 **9. Adjourn**

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

85 Respectfully submitted,

86 Daniel Hoijer  
87 Recording Secretary