

EXETER TRAIN STATION COMMITTEE

Wheelwright Room

10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833

March 19, 2026

11 AM

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Jonathan Ring (Chair), Don Briselden (Clerk), Enna Grazier, and Kenneth Berry, and Anthony Callendrello, Alternate

Members Absent: Darius Thompson (Vice-Chair)

Others Present: Robert Hall, Regional Resident, Jennifer Wheeler, Chamber of Commerce (remotely), Darren Winham, Economic Development Director, and Julie Gilman, Select Board Representative

Staff Present: Doug Eastman, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

1. Open Meeting/Introductions

Chair Ring called the meeting to order at 11 AM and the members and staff introduced themselves. Alternate Anthony Callendrello was activated in place of Darius Thompson.

2. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 19, 2026

Edits were recommended.

Chair Ring motioned to approve the minutes of March 19, 2026 as amended. Mr. Berry seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

3. Plan NH Community Design Charrette Program – July?

Mr. Winham reported there is a meeting on Tuesday. He recapped for Ms. Gilman that they had applied, been approved, will be working on their budget, and think

they will get the Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) grant and will find out next week. He noted the Committee has to pay for the Charette, food, hotels. They discussed the possibility of a subcommittee and provided a map of the charette area. He is meeting with an intern tasked with going through the past charrette to see what has been accomplished. Ms. Gilman noted that the design of Lincoln Street to the train station was done.

Chair Ring asked about the potential makeup of a subcommittee and the need to post and take minutes. Mr. Winham recommended dedicating a 20-minute work session at each committee meeting.

4. Review One-Year Goals – parking, community engagement, crisis intervention, Little Free Library, 2027 budget funding, review Darius suggestions (2/19)

Chair Ring discussed the vision and mission statement and recommendations by Mr. Thompson at the February meeting sent out to members by email. He recommended bringing back information to the next meeting. Ms. Grazier recommended incorporating the master plan statement.

The Committee discussed community engagement and Mr. Callendrello recommended starting with an explanation of why the Select Board found it important enough to form the committee. Mr. Winham noted some bullet points could be pulled from the Select Board meeting. Mr. Hall noted that in 2010 they distributed information to each house on Lincoln Street. Ms. Gilman noted Public Works may have a door hanger template for printing. Mr. Winham noted they could post a QR code in different locations including the station. Ms. Gilman recommended putting something on the town webpage. Chair Ring recommended reaching out to Bob Glowacky at ExeterTV. Ms. Grazier recommended having some conversation bullet points established. The members will bring back bullet points for the next meeting.

Mr. Winham recommended discussing what they want to get out of it. Chair Ring agreed some goals are for a year, others are forever, like parking and recommended reaching out to the police chief. Ms. Gilman noted Exeter has a parking and pedestrian plan. Mr. Briselden noted that there will be feedback from the charette to say what they want to do for future years.

Chair Ring noted the Little Free Library could be done right away.

Mr. Callendrello agreed the 2027 budget funding should be part of their first-year goal. Ms. Wheeler recommended addressing why it is important and benefits such as economic development. Mr. Winham noted there is no data at this point to say the dollar effect on economic development.

Mr. Winham recommended identifying the station and where it is and how to get to downtown with signage. There are five directional signs to the platform in town, one on Epping Road, Kingston Rd, Drinkwater Rd, Portsmouth Ave, and Hampton Road. More information will come from the charette on this topic. He noted Exeter is the only station without amenities. Mr. Hall has 27 years of history on the station. Ms. Grazier noted a train trivia night would be good. Mr. Winham agreed this could be part of fundraising.

5. Status on State of Good Repair Grant and Work – summer?

Mr. Hall noted the repair work is in progress.

6. Status on Planning and Design Project with Application to Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grant - Darren

Mr. Winham noted VHS applied for the \$800,000 grant for the station design and he will follow up on Monday. Ms. Gilman asked for a copy of the application.

7. Discuss possible one additional Alternate Committee Member

Mr. Briselden noted he hasn't had a chance to talk to a potential representative at PEA because they are on break.

8. Committee Correspondence Received - none

9. Other Business

Mr. Briselden noted that Public Works has a improvement project in the adjacent area of School Street coming in summer of 2026/fall of 2027.

10. Adjourn/Next Meeting: April 16, 2026 at 11 AM.

Mr. Berry motioned to adjourn at 12 PM. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary