

Exeter Conservation Commission

August 07, 2012

Call to Order

Acting Chairman Carlos Guindon called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in the Nowak Room in the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were: Don Briselden, Alyson Eberhardt, Jay Gregoire, Kevin Keaveney, Ginny Raub, Mike Field and Kristen Murphy, Town Natural Resource Planner.

There was no public comment

Action Items

1. Ms. Vaso Partinoudi an instructor in Computer Science and Pre Engineering classes at the Seacoast School of Technology (SST) appeared before the Commission to outline her intent in having her engineering class do some water sampling of the Exeter River and to request the use of the Town's Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) monitoring equipment. As she is also a VRAP volunteer in Durham and familiar with the program, the sampling would follow the procedure as outlined in the VRAP protocol.

Ms. Partinoudi added she has about 40 students from 7 high schools and would like to get them started in volunteering in their communities. She anticipates having 4 sampling events; one a month starting early September and finishing in December noting and discussing what environmental factors might influence the readings. She hoped to have a member of ECC or VRAP come and speak to each of two classes before the sampling to talk about volunteering and what is going on in their community. Ms. Murphy did agree to speak to the classes and other members agreed to assist in the field sampling. Testing locations and dates were discussed and will be finalized; Ms. Murphy will email possible sampling dates to determine the availability of members for field assistance.

Mr. Guidon asked if members had any concerns with lending out equipment; he personally felt the educational value of the outreach project outweighed any potential risk to the equipment as Ms. Partinoudi is familiar with the equipment. Mr. Jonathan Ring, an engineer with Jones and Beech and a member of the local advisory board for the engineering program at the SST was in the audience waiting to present a case and expressed his enthusiasm for this outreach endeavor. The members present offered no objections.

2. Mr. Jonathan Ring of the Jones and Beech engineering firm and representing the Exeter Hospital presented the plan for the parking area associated with the proposed Med-Real Synergy project on the hospital campus. The Synergy Health & Fitness Center is to close on Dec. 01, 2012 and remain closed for 14 months as it is modified into a musculoskeletal center. The project includes/but not limited to/a 14,000 sq. ft. third story addition and changes to the entrance /exits, relocating signage and parking areas off of Alumni Drive.

Mr. Ring using prepared plans oriented the members to the present structures on the campus and the location of the designated prime wetlands and the 100 ft. buffer and the 40 ft. no cut no disturb buffer on the property and noted they are in close proximity to the proposed work. The amounts of disturbance with impervious surfaces within these zones are 16,000 +- sq. ft. and 15,000 +- sq. ft. but noted some affected areas are within both zones. These infractions were approved in 1986 when

Draft Minutes

The Synergy parking lot will be removed and the grade of the lot lowered, a lower parking lot (Lot 3) will be rebuilt and the one-way entrance/exit coming off Alumni Drive will be reconfigured and the installation signage directing the new traffic pattern. There is no ground disturbance with the third-story addition.

Mr. Ring did review the stormwater drainage systems/catch basins and their flow patterns currently in place and noted they were part of the 1986 approval process. The catch basins on the site at this time do not meet the current standards for treatment of stormwater; not current with today's technology.

In relocating the signage for the Center the portion of the (disturbance) work is located in the 100' buffer of the prime wetland and the 40' buffer of the poorly drained soils; 7422 sq. ft. of the work occurs within the 100' buffer and 550 sq. ft. within the 40' buffer of poorly drained soil; some of that impact is retaining walls, landscaped spaces etc.) No work is proposed to fill or alter the wetlands; the work is within the buffers. This action does however require the approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) by the Planning Board. The Conservation Commission in an advisory capacity does submit their comments as part of the approval process. As requested by Mr. Briselden a copy of the State wetlands permit application was circulated while Mr. Ring reviewed the questions/responses. He noted an application for an Alteration of Terrain (AoT) permit will also be filed with DES.

Mr. Field asked as to the maintenance of the bio retention swales to adequately maintain their capacity to deal with the stormwater. Mr. Ring referred to a Stormwater Maintenance Operational Manual outlining the procedures for such maintenance. The prepared manual is part of the Wetlands Permit application and is also part of the drainage report submitted to the Town for review. It was ascertained the Owner (hospital) is responsible for the inspection and remedies if needed. Ms. Murphy added the Town does not get involved in inspections but does have the ability to review the maintenance log required to be maintained by the owner documenting maintenance procedures.

Concluding, Mr. Ring stated all proposed work, including the stormwater management plan, will be reviewed by the Planning Board and by the Technical Review committee (TRC) at the August 28, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Briselden motioned to pass on (to the Planning Board) the Conditional Use Permit application with no objections; seconded by Mr. Gregoire. Motion carried.

Mr. Briselden made the second motion to pass onto the Planning Board the Wetlands Permit application with no objections; seconded by Mr. Gregoire. Motion carried.

Regular Business

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report compiled for the month of July was circulated. Mr. Gregoire moved to accept the report as presented; seconded by Mr. Keaveney. Motion carried.

Ms. Raub also noted at a May 2009 meeting a motion was approved to consolidate the two People United Bank accounts as it was no longer necessary to have two Conservation accounts. No action was taken to see this accomplished. The present Town Treasurer asked the vote be re taken and if approved a written

Draft Minutes

statement supporting the action be signed by at least three members of the Commission. Ms. Raub then motioned for the Commission to re-confirm the May 2009 vote to merge the two People's United Bank accounts into the one operating account; seconded by Mr. Briselden. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Raub moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Gregoire seconded. Motion carried with Mr. Briselden abstaining as he was not present at that meeting.

5. Natural Resources Planner's Report and Correspondence

Ms. Murphy reported her office (Planning) acted on three potential wetland violations this past month. In reviewing the individual occurrences she outlined the procedure normally followed with a notification. The Town Code Enforcement officer goes out to the site and Ms. Murphy most often does accompany him. The information is documented and a land resource complaint form is completed and sent to DES; n DES then follows up. The Town does try to work with DES on the infractions. All of the potential violations are currently in the review and response stage with DES.

The Conservation Commission is set to appear before the Planning Board on Aug. 09, 2012 to present its request for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP is a 6 year budget planning tool used by the Town in planning for items with a projected cost of \$25,000 or more. As recommended by the Raynes Stewardship Committee, the ECC is requesting for year 2013, \$30,000 for replacement of the Raynes barn roof. There is to be no request for 2014. In 2015 funds will be sought for the repair of the west sill and work to the silo connector and in 2016 will re-initiate a request for an annual allocation of \$50,000 to the ECC for future acquisition of properties determined to be in the best interest for the Town. The warrant article/bond passed in 2003 for land acquisitions will be retired in 2016.

The joint purchase with the Town of Kensington for the Ryder property on Powder Mill Road remains unresolved. It was brought to Ms. Murphy's attention by the Assessor's office the property was sold although there has been no word from the Town of Kensington or the Forest Society, who was guiding the purchase through a grant program, on its status. The 46 acre property lies both in Kensington and Exeter with the entrance to any future development being in Exeter. The Town approved a warrant article back in 2009 for funds toward the purchase of the property and has carried over that amount in anticipation of a finalized agreement. At this time the project does not seem viable.

Returning to an approved expense of \$200.00 for the purchase of Conservation Easement Boundary discs, Ms. Murphy reported the former supplier has significantly raised the cost of each disc enough so it is not feasible to use that company; will continue to look for another supplier to obtain the number of discs desired at an acceptable cost.

Ms. Murphy prepared a list of anticipated expenses in the Conservation line items account for the remainder of the year. She suggested a vote on the items as the Commission goes into the Budget formation/review process for 2013 to reflect a more detailed account of our activities and obligations.

Following the review and discussion of each of the proposed action items it was asked how would she prioritize the actions. Mr. Briselden moved to accept the report of the Natural Resource Planner

Draft Minutes

proposed expenditures for the remainder of 2012 and specifically authorize the expenditures for, but not to exceed, the proposed amounts for line item Dues (3), Trail Management/Maintenance (5), Mowing at Raynes (9), Conservation Land Administration (10) and Mowing for four conservation properties (11). Motion seconded by Ms. Raub. Motion carried.

6. Other business

October 13, 2012 was tentatively set as the re-scheduled date for the Trails Day event at Raynes cancelled in June because of heavy rains. More details will be developed at September meeting.

The possibility of meeting off-site perhaps one day a month for training, a workshop, trail work, boundary marking was previously discussed. Mr. Guindon felt it could be an opportunity for older members to review what resources we have and for the newer members to become acquainted with such documents. The response was favorable from members present. It was agreed the third Saturday of the month seemed favorable and Ms. Murphy would adjust her schedule to join the group out of doors, away from the desk of the monthly night meetings. Members expressed possible activities and also opening the meetings to those interested as part of public outreach. For the Sept 15th session, the plan is to do boundary work at Beech Hill.

7. Next meeting date **September 11, 2012**

Ms. Raub moved to close the public session of the Conservation Commission to go into a work session: seconded by Mr. Briselden. Motion carried. Public meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Work Session

8. Management Plan Overview Session:

Ms. Murphy to review the Trail management Plan prepared in 2009. The complete report may be viewed on Town website by the link under the Conservation Commission site location.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub
Acting Recording Secretary