

Exeter Conservation Commission  
September 10, 2024  
Novak Room  
10 Front Street  
7:00 PM  
Draft Minutes

**Call to Order**

1. Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)

Present at tonight’s meeting were by roll call, Vice-Chair Conor Madison, Trevor Mattera, Kyle Welch, Nick Champion, Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Valorie Fanger, Alternate Michele Crepeau (remotely), and Alternate Bill Campbell (remotely).

Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner

Vice-Chair Champion called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM, activated alternate Bill Campbell, and introduced the members.

2. Public Comment

**Action Items**

3. Consideration of alternate/voting member change

Ms. Murphy indicated that Kyle Welch expressed an interest in stepping aside to an alternate member position and Valorie Fanger was interested in serving as a voting member. She noted if the Commission recommended, she would send a memo to the Select Board to take action at their next meeting.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Madison motioned to endorse the alternate/voting member change moving Valorie Fanger from alternate to voting member and Kyle Welch from voting member to alternate member. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Welch voted aye, Ms. Fanger voted aye, Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Mattera voted aye, Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Champion voted aye and Mr. Campbell voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.

4. Committee Reports

a. Property Management

i. Raynes Farm Updates (LCHIP Grant, LGT Restoration)

43 Ms. Murphy reported that LGT Restoration is moving ahead quickly on the west and  
44 north side of the barn so there are now two contractors working. Steve Bedard  
45 anticipates requesting an extension and is close to finishing up the south side.  
46

47 Ms. Murphy reported the silo will have a protective coating applied and additional  
48 flooring work in the barn will be completed.  
49

50 b. Outreach Events

51  
52 i. Proposed Hike Challenge – Kyle Welch  
53

54 Mr. Welch proposed starting a “Hike Exeter” challenge envisioning six hikes on mostly  
55 Conservation properties. If all six properties are hiked the hiker could become a member of the  
56 Hike Exeter club. The challenge would be open to everyone, not just Exeter residents. A form  
57 would be submitted to Ms. Murphy documenting the time hiked, and descriptions of wildlife  
58 observed. Dogs are eligible. Mr. Welch will start a Hike Exeter Facebook page to share pictures  
59 and ask questions. The properties are between 2-4 miles and can be walked, biked, skied or  
60 snowshoed: 1. Henderson Swasey (starts at 3CI by the Rinks), 2. Watson Road, 3. Joly Rand, 4.  
61 Cubie Road by the High School, 5. Gilman Park along the river, and PEA woods.  
62

63 Mr. Welch requested up to \$300 to print new stickers.  
64

65 MOTION: Mr. Welch motioned to spend up to \$300 to have stickers printed. Mr. Madison  
66 seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Welch voted aye, Ms. Fanger voted aye,  
67 Mr. Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Mattera voted aye, Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Champion voted  
68 aye and Mr. Campbell voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.  
69

70 c. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)

71 i. Demonstration of Tree Inventory Program and Soliciting Volunteers

72 Ms. Murphy demonstrated the Town’s Tree Inventory Program and asked for volunteers to  
73 conduct web/app based inventories of street trees in the public rights of way. Public Works has  
74 a dashboard they can schedule maintenance from. The last inventory was done in 2017. The  
75 Committee worked with Rockingham Planning Commission’s ARC/GIS online. Volunteers would  
76 identify trees and their condition and submit photos. The webpage has a training guide. Ms.  
77 Murphy will do group training. Interested volunteers can contact Ms. Murphy at  
78 [kmurphy@exeternh.gov](mailto:kmurphy@exeternh.gov)

79 Mr. Welch asked if trees should be all on public rights of way and Ms. Murphy recommended if  
80 it is close, to collect it. Ultimately Public Works will determine who is responsible for  
81 maintenance based on where the tree is rooted.

82 Mr. Mattera asked how the information would get updated. Ms. Murphy noted that she and  
83 Public Works have the only access to the edited version but it would updated. She envisioned  
84 groups adopting an area in the future and noted it would be great to have a tree steward.

85 Ms. Murphy noted that Dakota Bailey of RPC had prepared the inventory GIS and has left but  
86 fortunately the Town has a new GIS person, Heather Shea, at Public Works.

87 Ms. Murphy reported that the Energy Committee is having an electric vehicle demonstration  
88 day in September at Town Hall. The event is on their webpage and the town calendar. She  
89 welcomed visitors to bring their electric vehicles to show them off and answer questions. The  
90 Tesla Truck will be there.

91 Ms. Murphy reported there will be a button-up workshop in November at the public library to  
92 show how to improve energy efficiency in your home.

93 Ms. Murphy reported the Window Dressers will be having a sign up to build on MLK weekend at  
94 Town Hall.

95 Ms. Murphy reported the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be having an electric recycling  
96 event and there will be a Styrofoam collection event. The Town is hoping to purchase a unit  
97 which creates a collection container in Town and a marketable commodity while saving on  
98 hauling fees. The initial cost is \$80,000 with a \$50,000 grant available the cost would be  
99 \$30,000 and this would appear on the ballot. There would not be additional staff required. The  
100 other item on the ballot would be the Electric Vehicle Charging Station.

101 Ms. Murphy reported a planting event on Water Street in a couple of weeks and that some of  
102 the Liberty Elms will be moved to in front of Access Sports.

103 ii. Seacoast Green Challenge

104 Ms. Murphy announced a friendly competition with neighboring towns to see which community  
105 has the most residents using the higher renewable content in their Community Power  
106 subscription. She encouraged residents to opt up to a higher percentage. The challenge runs  
107 until January.

108

109 5. Approval of Minutes August 13, 2024 Meeting

110

111 MOTION: Vice-Chair Champion motioned to approve the August 13, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Mattera  
112 seconded the motion. A roll vote was taken, Mr. Welch voted aye, Ms. Fanger voted aye, Mr.  
113 Whitehouse voted aye, Mr. Mattera voted aye, Mr. Madison voted aye, Mr. Champion voted aye, and Mr.  
114 Campbell voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-0.

115

116 6. Correspondence

117

118 a. Ms. Murphy reported that the Volvo Kia application scheduled for the last meeting had  
119 been withdrawn. An extension request was granted. Ms. Murphy will connect with the  
120 wetland scientist. Ms. Crepeau asked if there would be a site walk. Ms. Murphy  
121 indicated there would be.

122

123

124 **Other Business**

125

126 Mr. Madison reported that he attended the Planning Board meeting regarding the application of Foss  
127 Motors. The application was approved by the Planning Board, with the building removed, for the  
128 parking lot only.

129

130 Next Meeting; Date Scheduled 10/8/24, Submission Deadline 9/27/24

131

132 7. **Adjournment**

133

134 Vice-Chair Campion adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

135

136 Respectfully submitted,

137 Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary

138 With edits by Kristen Murphy

139 Via Exeter TV

140 Webinar ID 873 2048 0944