

# TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 •FAX 772-4709

www.exeternh.gov

# PUBLIC NOTICE EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

# **Monthly Meeting**

The Exeter Conservation Commission will meet in the <u>Nowak Room</u>, Exeter Town Offices at 10 Front Street, Exeter on **Tuesday**, **September 10<sup>th</sup>**, **2024 at 7:00 P.M.** 

# **Call to Order:**

- 1. Introduction of Members Present
- 2. Public Comment

#### **Action Items:**

- 1. Consideration of alternate/voting member change
- 2. Committee Reports
  - a. Property Management
  - b. Outreach Events
    - i. Proposed Hike Challenge Kyle Welch
  - c. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy, Tree, CC Roundtable)
    - i. Demonstration of Tree Inventory Program and Soliciting Volunteers
    - ii. Seacoast Green Challenge
- 3. Approval of Minutes: 8/13/24 Meeting
- 4. Correspondence

## **Other Business**

5. Next Meeting: 10/8/24, Submission Deadline 9/27/24

Dave Short

Exeter Conservation Commission

Posted September 6th, 2024 Exeter Town Website www.exeternh.gov and Town Office kiosk.

## **ZOOM Public Access Information:**

Virtual Meetings can be watched on Ch 22 or Ch 98 and YouTube.

To access the meeting, click this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87320480944

To access the meeting via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 873 2048 0944

Please join the meeting with your full name if you want to speak.

Use the "Raise Hand" button to alert the chair you wish to speak. On the phone, press \*9.

More instructions for how to access the meeting can be found here:

https://www.exeternh.gov/townmanager/virtual-town-meetings

Contact us at extvg@exeternh.gov or 603-418-6425 with any technical issues.

# TOWN OF EXETER PLANNING DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

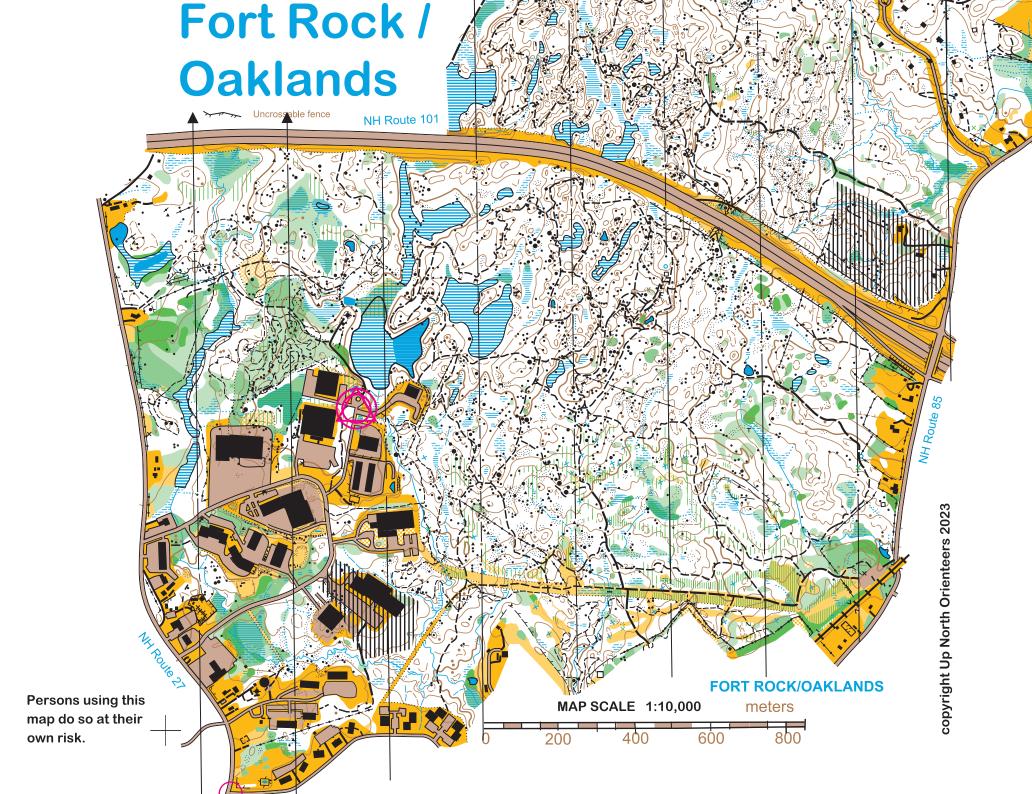
To Fro	To: Conse From: Kriste	mber 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 rvation Commission Board Members n Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner mber 10 <sup>th</sup> , Meeting
NC	NOTE: Don't forget to	vote before the meeting because polls close at 8pm.
1. Event Agreement Navigation Games, has applied to use the Henderson Swasey / Oaklands Town Fore NJROTC regional orienteering competition. They have filed to allow for up to 12 so in more likelihood that it will include 6 school (30 cadets). At the time of this memo on securing private land permissions.		orienteering competition. They have filed to allow for up to 12 schools but expect that it will include 6 school (30 cadets). At the time of this memo they are working
		eve reviewed the event agreement application and <u>ARE</u> IN SUPPORT of the action (as proposed) (with the following amendments):
		we reviewed the event agreement application and ARE <u>NOT</u> IN SUPPORT of the attion for the reasons as follows:
2.	have reached out to	Member  shift from voting member to alternate member status. To find a replacement, I the longest tenured alternates. This agenda item is to officially request the select diffication to appointments.
		no to the Select Board requesting voting member Kyle Welch be moved to an with term to expire on and be moved to voting member position
		ment – no report  Hike Challenge een working on a proposal to create a Hiking Challenge. See details attached.
	Suggested	Motion:
	Au	thorize the expenditure of up to \$from the Conservation Land Administration
5.	<ul><li>a. Tree Surv</li><li>b. Seacoast 0</li></ul>	Reports  ey Program – Time permitting I will demo the new street tree inventory app  Green Challenge – A friendly competition with neighboring towns to see which has the most residents using the higher renewable content in their Community

Power subscription.

# **Exeter Conservation Commission Event Agreement**

NOTE: This agreement is in addition to permits required by the Town of Exeter. Contact the Town Managers Office to determine any additional permit needs

Event Name:		Event Date:	
Point of Contact:			
		Estimate of Participants:	
Event Description:			
Please read, sign and initial b	elow. A copy of the notice o	f Authorization will be provided to yo	ou upon signature by the Conservation
Commission and should be in	* *	-	
I,	agree to comply with the fol	lowing terms for the above referenced	l event.
		operty, unless authorized in writing by ssion 2 days prior to the event.	landowner, with such
Two (2) days prior to routed to avoid wet		tions will be inspected. If trails are we	et, the event will be cancelled or re-
•		nservation Commission's representation ithin 7 days following the event.	ve prior to and after the event.
The event will be ca	ncelled if rain occurs after th	ne inspection or on the day of the race	
All litter will be rem	oved within 24 hours follow	ring the event	
A map of the planne	d route and a copy of the Ce	rtificate of Insurance is attached	
Trail markings shall	be non-permanent		
Organizers are responsible of the organizers of the organizers are responsible or the organizers are respons		and traffic control, medical facilities a	nd provisions for port-a-
NOTE: Submit application of Conservation Commission.	with sufficient time for staff	to obtain the following approvals pr	ior to presenting to the
Highway Superintendent	Dat	re Police Chief	Date
Fire Chief		ate	
Event Point of Contact	Date	Conservation Commission	



In order to join the "Hike Exeter" Club, all 6 of the Hike Exeter Routes must be completed under the following guidelines:

- 1) Upon completion of all 6 hikes, an application to join the Hike Exeter Club may be submitted, and once approved the hiker can receive their sticker at the start of the next Cons. Comm meeting or via mail.
- 2) Acceptable modes of completing the routes: Hiking, Running, Biking, XC skiing, Snowshoeing
- 3) Can a dog be a member of the club? Yes.
- 4) How can I prove which hikes I've done? This challenge relies on the honor system.
- 5) If multiple family members complete the challenge, does everyone have to submit a separate application? Yes. Assistance may be given to canine applicants.

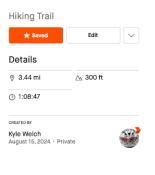


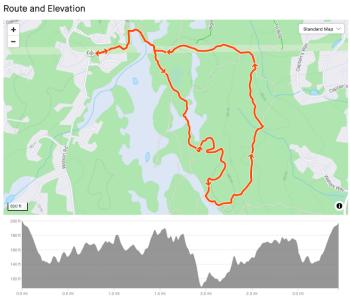
Hike	Date	Weather	Wildlife encountered	Comments
Oaklands Loop	力加	Hot, humid 85 F	Lots of squireds, beaver Dam but no beaver	Had to roll in mud to stay cool. (Bad WHEELER). with Mon, Oak, and Joe. 2 hos.
Henderson Swasey	1/3/22	20 F 1' of new Snow	some rabbit tracks	snowshoes for my humans.
Gilman River Walk	6/1/22	75F and sunny	Lots of dudes and a hawk!	some muddy sections
PEA	4/2/55	Windy! 40 F	saw a deer next to the liver!	nice walk along river
Cubie Rd	9/1/24	75 P SUMMY	Chipmunks and squireds galore	nice grassy trail
Jolly Rand	9/3/24	US F windy!	Heard an owl but didn't see	Cool <sup>dd</sup> Farm equipment abankoned along trail.

My Routes / HEX#1 Oaklands Red Loop



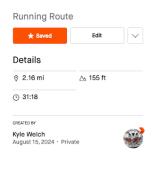
# HEX#1 Oaklands Red Loop





My Routes / HEX #2: Henderson Swasey

# HEX #2: Henderson Swasey

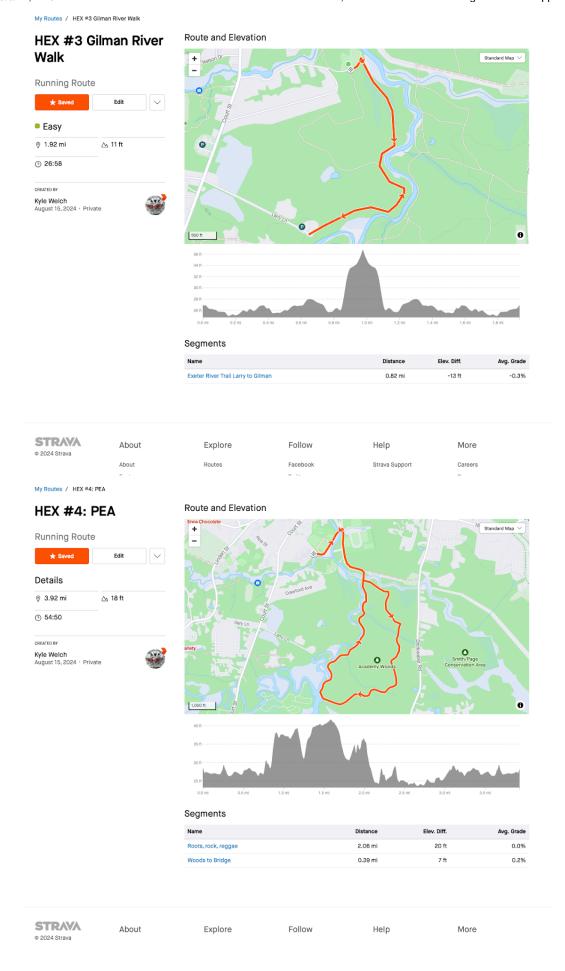


#### Route and Elevation

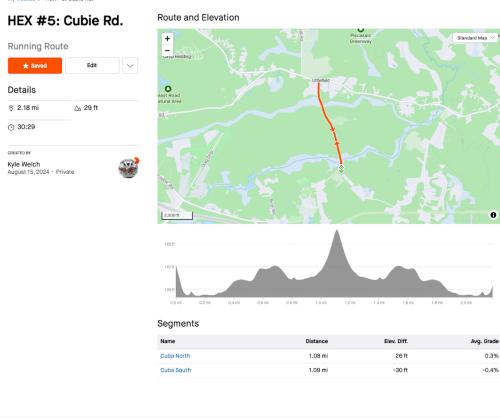


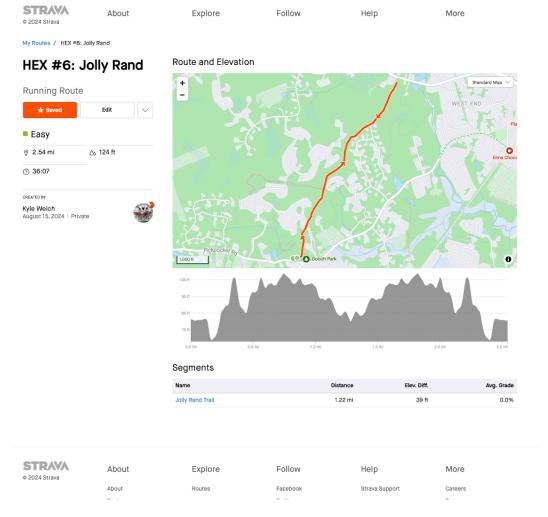
About Explore Follow Help More

About Routes Facebook Strava Support Careers



My Routes / HEX #5: Cubie Rd.





Hike Exeter Challenge

1	Exeter Conservation Commission
2	August 13, 2024
3	Novak Room
4	10 Front Street
5	7:00 PM
6	Draft Minutes
7	Draft Williaces
8	Call to Order
9	<u>an to order</u>
10	Introduction of Members Present (by Roll Call)
11	1. Introduction of Members Present (by Non-Carry
12	Present at tonight's meeting were by roll call, Chair Dave Short, Vice-Chair Conor Madison, Trevor
13	Mattera, Kyle Welch, Nick Campion, Keith Whitehouse, Alternate Valorie Fanger, Alternate Michele
14	Crepeau, Alternate Bill Campbell, and Select Board Representative Dan Chartrand.
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16	Staff Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation and Sustainability Planner
17	,
18	Chair Short called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, activated alternate Valorie Fanger, and introduced
19	the members.
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21	2. Public Comment
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23	Action Items
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25	1. Continued discussion of a Wetland and Shoreland Conditional Use Permit application for a proposed
26	Vehicle Storage Area and Accessory Storage at Tax Map 52, Lot 112.2 for Foss Motors.
27	
28	Chair Short read out loud the Public Hearing Notice.
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30	Christian Smith of Beals Associates indicated that present with him were Brendan Quigley and Tim Foss.
31	Mr. Smith presented the revised plan for a parking lot and building for Foss Motors. He noted that all
32	pavement was out of the 150' shoreland area and the building was reduced. There would be a retaining
33	wall and stormwater and infiltration trench. He noted that he contacted Underwood Engineering (UEI)
34	and stated that they concurred with their assessment on stormwater treatment.
35	Naistan Maranhar and an areal from LIFI armonomining the practice with Deels Asses. Che noted LIFI was
36	Kristen Murphy read an email from UEI summarizing the meeting with Beals Assoc.,. She noted UEI was
37	less concerned with underdrains with the decreased size. With regard to the removal of nitrogen, UEI
38 39	indicated the underdrain had no effect on pollutant reduction which occurs in the layer above, in the filter course. She indicated the design had a removal value of 96% for total suspended solids and 75%
39 40	for nitrogen and 77% phosphorous. UEI indicated the nitrogen requirement would be met if they kept
41	up on maintenance and they arranged to have a landscaper vacuum the system twice a year.
41	up on maintenance and they arranged to have a landscaper vacuum the system twice a year.
43	Mr. Smith indicated he received no formal response from UEI.
	S

Mr. Smith indicated that the parking area was shifted slightly toward GTE Road.

Ms. Fanger asked about the 150' shoreland versus the 300' shoreland area. Mr. Smith indicated that the entire property is in the 300' district and the design pulled things up as far outside the buffer as they could.

Chair Short read out loud a letter received from member Drew Koff who indicated that he felt the reduced design was minimal and not enough to change his mind. There was only a 10% reduction in building size, impact to wetland buffer, drain to drinking water supply and he is not supportive of the shoreland use permit. He would be okay with the parking lot but would like to see the building removed completely due to the proximity to and sensitivity of the reservoir.

Mr. Smith reviewed elevations and drainage area in the front of the building. He showed the diversion ditch and slightly higher shoulder.

Chair Short commented that the ditch disappears, after about 100', and no longer exists and water flows back.

Chair Short asked about the disturbance limits during construction and Mr. Smith indicated the darker arched line and limit of tree clearing.

Ms. Fanger asked about the percentage of impervious surface. Mr. Smith indicated there was existing impact of over ½ due to GTE Road. He pointed out the impervious surface on the roof and entryways.

Chair Short asked if there were any plans for a loading dock and Mr. Smith indicated no, there is a garage door in the rear and off GTE Road. There will be no big trucks making deliveries and the building would likely be underserved for a few years.

Ms. Fanger asked if there would be any auto servicing and Mr. Smith indicated no, only storage of new, dry auto parts.

Ms. Fanger indicated she was still concerned with wetlands and buffer impacts of 40,000 SF.

Brendan Quigley of Gove Environmental reviewed the impact areas shown on the plan in orange. He pointed out the swale created with GTE Road and a tiny pocket he referred to as a small hole in the field. He noted natural wetlands to the north. He pointed out the small pocket subject to buffer impact which he described as not super valuable but important to water quality. He pointed out stormwater treatment and that everything was reduced from the previous design. Mr. Quigley showed grading which would be restored with a seed mix.

Ms. Fanger indicated the entire building is in the permanent wetland impact area. Mr. Quigley agreed this was impacting the entire wetland and did not see any reason to focus on functions and values relative to the buffer itself if the wetland was filled.

88 Mr. Campbell stated that while he was not voting, he found that developing a 20,000 SF building
89 in the buffer is contrary to why we have a buffer. He showed a map of the original subdivision showing
90 the buildable area and asked if the committee saw it.

Ms. Murphy indicated that she sent the 2022 subdivision showing how the parcel became a lot.

Mr. Madison questioned the amount of reduction of impacts by reducing the building area from 22,500 SF to 20,000 SF.

Mr. Quigley indicated there was a 549 SF reduction in wetland impacts, permanent wetland buffer reduction of 9,700 SF, temporary buffer reduction would be the same for stormwater management, and the shoreland impact for the building would be reduced by 2,500 SF. He noted permanent shoreland pavement reduction of 7,585 SF, 150' surface setback for grading of 5,484 SF and addition of 46 SF of temporary impact shown in pink. The entire project was in the 300' shoreland area.

Mr. Quigley referenced the site walk and that the wetland along the road was not in the woods but more of a grassy swale next to the road.

Mr. Madison noted he was less concerned with wetland impacts than with the shoreland buffer zone and was not sure a 2,000 SF change was significant enough. He indicated that he appreciated their getting out of the 150' shoreland area but would like to see more reduction of the building size.

Mr. Madison asked if there had been any state permitting and Mr. Smith indicated he would pursue local first to see if there were any revisions.

Mr. Mattera agreed with Conor and Drew that the shoreland is important, as is the quality of water being protected. He stated that the building sticks out like a sore thumb. He would like to see a design that pulls out of the sensitive resources the ordinance is designed to protect.

Mr. Whitehouse agreed and stated that during the site walk he could see where it's going in a rainstorm, the building is the thing and he was sorry but that he could not do it in his mind. He noted that he would support the parking lot but not the building.

Ms. Fanger motioned that after reviewing the shoreland CUP application that the Commission is not in support of the application due to the fact that it is not a minor encroachment of the building and parking lot within the 300' protection area and impervious of over 10% and concerns with stormwater impact.

Mr. Madison requested to revise the motion to take out the 10% based on Mr. Smith's answer.

Ms. Fanger withdrew her motion.

Ms. Fanger motioned that after reviewing the shoreland CUP application the Commission is not in support of the application due to the fact that it is not a minor encroachment with most of the building and parking lot within the 300' shoreland area protecting Water Works Pond and concerns

with stormwater impact. Mr. Madison seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

Mr. Madison motioned that after reviewing the Wetland CUP the Commission is not in support of the application due to 5,000 SF of wetland impact.

Ms. Fanger requested to revise his motion.

140 Mr. Madison withdrew his motion.

Ms. Fanger motioned that after reviewing the Wetland CUP the Commission is not in support of the application because we are asking for an alternative design to the site and also this design takes out 5,000 SF of wetlands and 3,500 SF of wetlands buffer. Mr. Madison seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

147 Ms. Murphy recommended that a representative attend the Planning Board meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 148 PM. Mr. Madison indicated he would attend.

Major Impact Standard Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit Application for Dade Auto Holdings at 146
Portsmouth Avenue., for a commercial auto dealership (Cindy Balcius, SRE, Inc.)
Tax Map 51-1 3-3, 3-4

Chair Short indicated that the applicant withdrew the dredge and fill application. Ms. Murphy noted that a site walk had been scheduled at 146 Portsmouth Avenue and the applicant emailed requesting to defer to a future meeting. Because the wetland clock started with the state, she recommended issuing a letter to the state voicing the Commission's concerns.

Ms. Murphy indicated that the applicant did not file the local CUP application first and the state is not responsible for considering Exeter's local shoreland buffers. The applicant has been informed about the inaccuracy of their statement that the design meets the Exeter shoreland district regulations. The applicant showed the 150' shoreland and 300' shoreland intersecting on the plan and they can't. She discussed this with them this morning to clarify how the regulations apply, and that the wetland is contiguous, and they should take a look onsite. She informed the applicant that they would need more information. There is no stormwater management proposed for the 2-3 year time period that the fill will sit in place during the settling phase.

Ms. Fanger stated she would question if auto service would happen there because its prohibited in the shoreland and she also questions if there would be underground storage of petroleum. She referenced the protected brooks in the impact area.

Ms. Fanger asked if the applicant was required to apply with the state first and Mr. Madison explained there are different ways to apply for the permit while Exeter prefers that local be done first it is feasible to go to the state first. He indicated that they don't need Conservation Commission approval for dredge and fill. He noted for under one acre the time with the state is 50 days for approval and over an acre, 75

days. The Commission won't meet before the state deadline on 9/3. He recommended the Commission send a letter to the state then we will be copied on the response. Ms. Murphy recommended authorizing the chair to sign a letter to the state that reflects the commission's position. Mr. Madison will draft the letter indicating the Commission would like to see the Priority Resource Area (PRA) addressed as it is contiguous to the brook, the large stormwater concerns, the error in statement about meeting the town's shoreland regulations and interest in having the opportunity to meet with the application before action being taken by the state. Mr. Chartrand recommended including that the PRA is connected to the Great Bay area. Mr. Madison noted the brook is a prime wetland.

Mr. Mattera expressed concerns with the transitional marsh migration path. There is fresh water there and saltwater close by, but with sea level rise it will become brackish and saltish.

Mr. Mattera motioned to authorize the Chair, to sign a letter that reflects the concerns that includes the presence of a priority resource area as a wetland adjacent to the Tier 3 Stream, prime wetland, connection to Great Bay, concerns over stormwater during the settling, that the statement concerning meeting Exeter's shorland protection district regulations when it does not, opportunity to discuss the application with the applicant before the state takes action, and potential impact to a transitional marsh migration pathway. Mr. Campion seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

#### 4. Committee Reports

### a. Property Management

 Research Request Approval – Fisher study Oaklands in Little River (REDC) see email from William Chrisman

Ms. Murphy indicated receiving and approval of an email requesting a fisher study at Oaklands Little River Conservation Area to have access to conduct the study with trapping and radio collaring to study population and habitat use. There would be low impact permission contingent upon no motorized vehicles, checking traps daily, no trace of equipment, labeling and identifying traps with contact and project information. Exeter would have no liability but would get a copy of the report.

ii. Request for mowing expenditure - \$1,825

Ms. Murphy reported that she received an estimate from Dave O'Hearn for mowing for \$1,825. He recommended a single late season mowing to keep up with woody growth.

Mr. Short motioned to authorize the expense for roadside mowing. Mr. Mattera seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.

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

Ms. Murphy reported that she received an estimate from LGT Restoration for exterior clapboard trim replacement and painting, for \$18,200 covered by the Moose Plate grant. She recommended including the fire suppression system installation cost and annual alarm monitoring in the budget and seeking funding from the Town for the remaining item, the staircase another time because LCHIP approval would not happen until after December.

b. Trails

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Chair Short noted that due to a property transfer a portion of the trail crossing on the Oaklands Trail crossing Newfields would be closed because it went through Bill Connor's property, but the new owner doesn't want it. It is part of the red trail. Chair Short showed the location on the map and indicated where signs should go. Ms. Murphy will put it on the website and Facebook page.

i. Volunteer project request – Sig Sauer

Ms. Murphy reported that she received a request from Sig Sauer for a volunteer project for ten people and Toby said bridge work is needed in the Town Forest.

- c. Outreach Events
  - i. Tri-Town Kayak Event proposed for 9/21 or 9/28

Ms. Murphy reported that she received a request from the Town of Brentwood for Exeter to participate in a tri-town kayak event on 9/21 or 9/28 starting at Pickpocket Dam and going upstream.

Ms. Crepeau noted that Exeter River has a lot of snags and Squamscott would be better but is tide driven. Mr. Mattera indicated the times for the tides (computing the two-hour difference) at 6-6:30 PM on 9/21 and 1:00 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Mr. Chartrand recommended thanking them but explaining it would be tough to coordinate. Mr. Welch questioned if one location for the event would be better together.
- d. Other Committee Reports (River Study, Sustainability, Energy/CPAC, Tree, CC Roundtable)
- 256 Ms. Murphy recommended renaming the Facebook page because there is also information posted 257 on energy and sustainability. She will recommend potential names at the next meeting.
- 258 5. 2025 Budget

Ms. Murphy proposed a level funded budget with increases for the mowing and fire detection installation and annual alarm monitoring, \$13,515 for fire suppression system installation and \$700 per 262 year for monitoring.

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264	Chair Short agreed it would be foolish to do all that work at Raynes and not protect a dry wooden				
265	structure. Mr. Chartrand indicated he would be happy to advocate for the increase with the Select				
266	Board.				
267					
268	Mr. Campion recommended keeping the \$2,050 land administration in.				
269					
270	Ms. Fanger motioned that the Commission put forward the budget level funded with increases for fire				
271	suppression, and contract services line for the alarm monitoring and, roadside mowing. Chair Short				
272	seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.				
273					
274	6. Approval of Minutes July 9, 2024 Meeting				
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276	Spelling of names were corrected.				
277					
278	Chair Short motioned to approve the July 9, 2024 minutes as amended. Mr. Welch seconded the				
279	motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.				
280					
281	7. Correspondence				
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283	a. SELT – Rider Property Survey				
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285	Ms. Murphy reviewed the adjustment to the map concerning the discrepancy on the				
286	Kensington side on the second page which shows Great Brook will be protected including an				
287	additional seven acres. There will be an expansion of the exclusion area.				
288					
289	b. Update – 8 Thistle – Public Comment at July meeting follow up				
290					
291	Ms. Murphy reported that the Planning Board had authorized once a year mowing. A letter				
292	went out. She noted that she could not waive regulations or what the Planning Board				
293	authorized. She would like the buffer discs replaced and would like to meet with the				
294	owners but has not heard back.				
295					
296	c. NH DOT Herbicide Application				
297	NAC NA COLO CONTRA DE CONT				
298	Ms. Murphy reported receiving a DOT application for herbicide treatment on bridges. The				
299	deadline is August 16 <sup>th</sup> to comment.				
300	Oth or Dusings				
301	Other Business				
302 303	Next Meeting. Date Scheduled 9/10/24. Submission Deadline 8/30/24				
7117	NEXT MEETING DATE MICHIEU 9/10/74 MINIONNON DEANINE 8/30/74				

306 307	8. Adjournment
308	MOTION: Chair Short motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. Mr. Welch seconded the
309 310	motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.
311	Respectfully submitted,
312 313 314	Daniel Hoijer, Recording Secretary Via Exeter TV Webinar ID 847 5898 6265