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**Town of Exeter  
Swasey Parkway Trustees Meeting  
Nowak Room  
March 19, 2025  
4:00 PM  
Draft Minutes**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order**

9 Chair Staples called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and introduced the members who were  
10 present  
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**2. Introductions:**

13 **Present were:** Chair Dwane Staples, Vice-Chair Darius Thompson and Dave Short  
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15 **Others Present:** Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Representative, Kristen Murphy,  
16 Conservation & Sustainability Planner  
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**3. Public Comment**

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20 There was no public comment, outside of agenda items.  
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**4. Approval of Minutes**

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24 **January 15, 2025 Public Meeting Minutes**

25  
26 *Mr. Thompson motioned to approve the January 15, 2025 minutes. Mr. Short seconded*  
27 *the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously 3-0-0.*  
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**5. Election of Officers**

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31 Mr. Thompson congratulated Mr. Staples on his re-election to the Board.  
32

33 *Mr. Thompson motioned to appoint Mr. Staples as Chair of the Trustees. Mr. Short*  
34 *seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.*  
35

36 *Mr. Short motioned to appoint Mr. Thompson as Vice-Chair of the Trustees. Chair Staples*  
37 *seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.*  
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**6. Kristen Murphy Presentation**

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41 Conservation and Sustainability Planner Kristen Murphy reported that the town was awarded  
42 the Coastal Resiliency Grant from NH Department of Environmental Services to fund a  
43 document to design long term sea level and climate changes at Swasey Parkway. She  
44 described the small committee that would work with the consultant and meet with the public.

45 She asked for a representative from the Trustees. Mr. Short indicated he was available and  
46 Chair Staples indicated he was interested but would get back to her shortly before the meeting.  
47 Chair Staples asked if there would be a representative from the community and Ms. Murphy  
48 indicated there would be engagement with the community but she was not sure it was required.  
49 She noted that either the Town Manager or Assistant Town Manager would attend and Select  
50 Board Representative Papakonstantis indicated he will be serving on the committee.

51  
52 Ms. Murphy noted that the Meaningful Engagement training would take place on March 26<sup>th</sup>.  
53 Mr. Thompson asked if the training session would be recorded and Ms. Murphy will find out.  
54 Mark Damsell asked if he could attend and Ms. Murphy indicated that he could attend the  
55 committee's meetings that were open to the public, she did not think the training session, which  
56 was for municipal associations who were awarded the coastal resiliency grant, was open to the  
57 public. Mr. Damsell noted he would like to be involved as much as possible as his property  
58 abuts the Parkway.

59  
60 Mr. Thompson recommended the design conceptualizes not just the 100-year flood or 200-year  
61 but takes a look at the impact of 1000-year. Mr. Short noted the impact of sea level rise to the  
62 Parkway impacts all the way to businesses on Water Street.

63  
64 Ms. Murphy referenced the CAPE study or Climate Action Plan for Exeter that was done in 2010  
65 or 2012 and indicated she would like to re-engage. She noted there was some flagging and will  
66 send the link.

67

## 68 **7. Update on Turn Around and Input received from public**

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70 Chair Staples asked if anyone had received feedback concerning the new turnaround. Mr.  
71 Thompson noted that he visited with his full-sized pick up truck and found it a little bit tight. He  
72 noted that prior to where the lines are marked is not wide enough for three cars.

73

74 Chair Staples noted he received feedback about one challenge which was parking on the  
75 backside of the turnaround and being able to get around it.

76

77 Chair Staples recommended being patient since the turnaround was just put in in November  
78 and adjustments could be made as necessary.

79

80 Mr. Thompson indicated it was great to see reflective stickers on the gates.

81

## 82 **8. Tree & Shrub Pruning**

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84 Chair Staples noted some trees were done in January and there will likely be more branches to  
85 clean up before the end of the winter.

86

87 Mr. Short recommended getting information to John about the key. Chair Staples will reach out  
88 to him.

89

90 Chair Staples noted it has been a few years since shrubs were pruned and clean-up should be  
91 done this year. Mr. Thompson indicated he could help with pruning with direction and guidance.  
92 Chair Staples recommended getting a couple of winter hybernium to plant along the Academy  
93 fence.

94

95 **9. Plans for the upcoming year**

96

97 Chair Staples noted that the Trustees discussed reaching out to the Tree Committee to talk  
98 about replacing trees across from the pavilion. Mr. Short will reach out to them.

99

100 **10. Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2025**

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102 **11. Adjourn**

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104 ***Mr. Thompson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 PM. Mr. Short seconded the***  
105 ***motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

106 Respectfully submitted,

107 Daniel Hoijer  
108 Recording Secretary  
109 (via *ExeterTv.com*)