

## **EXETER RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**June 10, 2008**

### **Convene Meeting**

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Public Works Director Jennifer Perry, Selectman Matt Quandt, Resident Rod Bourdon, Phillips Exeter Academy rep. Danelle Smith, John Henson, Pete Richardson, Michael Lampert, Frank Patterson and Town Engineer Paul Vlasich were all in attendance.

#### **1. Approve minutes of 2/14/08 and 5/15/08**

Mr. Ingram stated that there was an overstatement of the objective in the 5/15 minutes. The objective is to read; The concerns of this committee are any activity or condition that affects the river above & below the Great Dam.

**Mr. Quandt moved to accept the new objective as presented, Mr. Bourdon seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.**

#### **2. Dam Modifications**

Mr. Ingram reported that there was a letter received from Paul Currier of NHDES about the dam removal and the watershed issue. It could be a long process and there were concerns that the dam did not meet the state standards. The other option would be to reinforce the dam. Mr. Ingram said that they are safety orientated and can't wait too long for modifications and that thing needs to be done right. He also said that removing the dam will not solve the upstream flooding issue. Mr. Henson stated that removal of the dam will be a great cost and it will be less expensive to keep it in good repair. He also thought that a lot of study needs to be done to see what the upstream consequences will be. Mr. Richardson said that there are consequences not yet explored and people need to keep an open mind. He is not comfortable excluding the idea of dam removal until looked at from all places and thinks Ms. Perry needs to be given enough flexibility to get a proposal that meets the money restriction.

#### **3. Wright Pierce and Stantec Report**

Ms. Perry reported that Wright Pierce was asked to look at scour and potential water quality improvements with additional discharge of bottom water.

Scour - All 3 dam modifications would not significantly affect current conditions but some sections need embankment modifications; possibly rip rap. Existing problem areas could get worse.

Water quality – Wright Pierce reported that water quality would not improve; not just low dissolved oxygen bottom water would be extracted.

#### **4. Old News**

Mr. Richardson reported about the Exeter River Geomorphic Assessment Project that is being conducted under the direction of NHDES. It will be conducted in 2008 and complete in 2009. The project describes how flowing waters affect the land. ERLAC will host a project kick-off meeting on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7-9pm in the Hilton Auditorium at the Rockingham County Nursing Home in Brentwood with all the project partners. Mr. Richardson suggested that interested people attend the meeting and that the committee should consider discussions and research that might better inform everyone about the feasibility and impacts of dam removal.

#### **5. Adjourn**

The next River Study Committee meeting will take place Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 9:30 am in the Nowak Room of the Town Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aimee Caruso  
Recording Secretary