

EXETER RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 20, 2010

1. Convene Meeting:

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Paul Vlasich-Town Engineer, Resident Rod Bourdon, Ginny Raub, Don Clement-Selectmen Rep, Frank Patterson, Peter Richardson, Kristen Murphy-Planning, Russell Dean – Town Manager and Mimi Becker were all in attendance. Guest speakers: Deb Loiselle from NH DES. Lionel convened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approve minutes of 4/15/10:

There was a motion to accept the minutes of April 15, 2010 as presented by Mimi Becker and seconded by Rod Bourdon. Vote was unanimous.

Lionel Ingram thanked the subcommittee for all their hard work done thus far. Peter Richardson made a motion to add thanks to the committee into the minutes and seconded by Rod Bourdon.

3. Report of the Sub Committee on the RFP for the Feasibility Study-Mimi Becker:

Mimi Becker gave thanks to the working group members as well as the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) for all their hard work in connection to the public meeting. Mimi passed out the report which compiled the information from the public meeting and follow up. Lionel asked the committee to accept the report submitted by Mimi Becker, “Exeter River Study Work Group Report to the ERSC, on the public meeting and follow-up” stating the quantity and quality of input the group has gathered is valuable. Ginny Raub made a motion to accept the report as presented and seconded by Rod Bourdon. Vote was unanimous.

Lionel Ingram asked Mimi Becker if there were any issues not covered in the report stating he would like to get those issues, if any, on the table for the Request for Proposal (RFP). Mimi replied not at this time.

Frank Patterson asked if the public could go onto the Town’s website and view the report. Mimi replied that is the #1 request.¹ Frank also asked if the public has anything to add or has questions how does the public get it to the committee. Mimi replied they can email her at mimi.becker@unh.edu, Mimi also stated they will have until noon on Thursday, May 27, 2010 to comment on the report.

4. Discussion of the Process after the RFP is Published – Deb Loiselle:

Deb Loiselle handed out the “Outline for Request for Proposal (RFP).² Deb noted it is based off previous feasibility studies that have been done but it is detailed to Exeter. Deb also stated they are now looking at all the categories and looking deeper for coding purposes. Deb stated the following week they will be looking at the coded task and the RFP and it will then be submitted to the subcommittee in about 1 ½ weeks. Deb stated June 15, 2010 will be the focus of going over the RFP. Deb is anticipating having a “draft” RFP to the River Study Committee (RSC) by their June meeting which is June 17, 2010.

Deb explained the categories of the outline list adding they are typical for a dam removal process. Lionel Ingram stated it has to be made clear, once the consultant has been chosen, that we are not asking the consultant to try and design or resolve the water supply issue. Russ Dean made comment to focus on the removal issue, whether it can or cannot be done.

¹ The report was added to the Town’s website, listed under “Reports” and is also on the front page along with a link to Mimi’s email address.

² Added to the May 2010 minutes as a PDF file.

Russ Dean clarified the potential funding that is available to the Town of approximately \$160,000.00; \$40,000.00 from the Town, \$60,000.00 from a State grant, a potential \$45,000.00 from the Gulf of Maine Coast plus \$15,000.00 from previous funding. Plus there is \$377,000.00 as a borrowing option to do design work under "Dam Modification Fund". Russ also mentioned the Town has \$150,000.00 in the Water Fund to explore the Gilman and Stadium wells for alternative water sources.

Don Clement stated that two issues showed up repeatedly, erosion and water quality. He asked Deb if they are in the list to address. Deb replied erosion is addressed in the "Sediment Evaluation" category and she will add an additional task for the water quality.

Don Clement asked Deb if the Request for Qualification (RFQ) should be before the RFP. Deb stated that will be discussed at the next meeting in June.

Russ Dean explained the Town's bid process.³

Mimi Becker addressed the public's frustration in navigating the Town's website when it comes to reports connected to the river. Russ Dean stated he wasn't aware of anything not being accessible. Adding all the reports are in the "Publications" tab, all they would need to do is click on it.⁴ Mimi also stated the group will develop a "Frequently Asked" sheet to be put on the website.

5. Other Business:

The Town should hear back on the Gulf of Maine Coast grant in a couple of weeks.

6. Public Comment:

None

7. Adjourn the Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m. The next meeting was set for June 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Rogers
Public Works Office Manager

³ The Town's current purchase process was emailed to the RSC members along with May's minutes by Grace Rogers.

⁴ "Publications" has been changed to "Reports" on the Town's website.

**Exeter River Great Dam - Dam Removal Impact Study
Outline for Request for Proposal (RFP) Outline**

Existing Data Collection and Review

- Studies that have been completed to date
- Property lines
- NHDES Dam files
- Town of Exeter files

Field Survey and Base Mapping

- Existing conditions survey of dam, adjacent structures, utilities, and other
- Wetland boundaries
- Longitudinal profiles and cross-sections

Historic Resource Assessment

- Architectural resources
- Archaeological resources

Sediment Evaluation

- Sediment quantity
- Sediment quality
- Sediment transport and management

Hydrology and Hydraulics Analysis

- Hydrology study
- Hydraulic analysis
- Scour analysis
- Ice impact analysis
- Flooding

Other Issues of Importance

- Fish passage
- Infrastructure impacts
- Listed species and other wildlife
- Recreational usage
- Invasive species
- Fire water supply
- Water withdrawal by the Town of Exeter, Phillips Exeter Academy, and local mills

Outreach and Education Coordination Meetings

- Public Informational Meetings (3)
- Project progress meetings (6 minimum)

Cost and Timeline

- Dam removal
- Further analysis of existing issues
- Additional identified issues

Dam Removal Impact Study Preparation

- Draft
- Final