

EXETER RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 21, 2011

1. Convene Meeting:

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Don Clement-Selectmen Rep., Rod Bourdon, Paul Vlasich-Town Engineer, Mimi Becker, Ginny Raub, Roger Wakeman-PEA Rep., and Pete Richardson were all in attendance. Guest speakers: Deb Loiselle- NHDES and Derek Sowers-PREP. Lionel convened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

2. Approve minutes of 3/24/11:

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of the March 24, 2011 by Mimi Becker and seconded by Don Clement. Vote was unanimous.

3. Introduction to Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) (Derek Sowers):

Lionel stated, in connection with what the committee does, he asked Derek Sowers from PREP to give the committee a briefing on what PREP is and what they do. Lionel stated there are two Phases to the river project; Phase I deals with upstream of the dam and Phase II deals with downstream of the dam. The committee's concern is focused on Exeter and not to be the master planner of what happens on the river.

Lionel introduced Derek Sowers, Conservation Program Manager, at PREP. Derek passed out a 2009 report "State of the Estuaries". This report is produced every 3 years and is a very condensed report. Derek also referred to another report, "Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning", which he had with him for anyone to view. This report took a 1 ½ years to compile.

Derek gave a PowerPoint presentation¹ which gave an overview of PREP. The topics covered were:

- ✓ PREP's Story
- ✓ Monitoring Program
- ✓ Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment
- ✓ Assessment Methodology
- ✓ Conservation Fundamentals
- ✓ Wildlife Considerations
- ✓ Wildlife Habitat
- ✓ Wetland Conservation
- ✓ Shoreland Buffers
- ✓ Stormwater Management
- ✓ Drink Water Protection
- ✓ Non-Regulatory Conservation Actions
- ✓ Clear Priorities for Work

Derek also stated for the complete report go to:

http://www/prep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/piscataqua_region_environmental-prep-10.pdf

Lionel asked Derek if he spoke to the Planning Board and was able to get on their agenda would Derek come to a meeting and give the Planning Board the presentation. Derek said he would be happy to. The committee thanked Derek for coming and giving them the presentation.

¹ Derek emailed the PP presentation to Grace Rogers who forwarded it to all the RSC members.

4. Status of the Consultant Search – Paul Vlasich:

Paul Vlasich updated the committee by stating there still is no signed contract with a consultant for the Dam Feasibility Study. There are still a couple of issues to iron out in the Scope of Work and they are looking at what the Town actually needs. Due to lack of funding they are trying to scope the project so the Town can move forward. Mimi Becker asked Paul when he anticipated having a signature, Paul replied, 1st week of May.

Paul stated that Deb Loiselle and Phyllis Duffy completed the request for the NH Charitable Foundation (NHCF) grant and submitted it by the deadline of April 1, 2011. The grant requested \$10,000 for a couple of items in the Scope of Work and \$6,300 for visual renditions. Paul thought the residents would like to see what it would look like if the dam was to be removed. Paul stated there is not enough money in the warrant to do the sediment work. Deb stated they should be hearing back around the beginning of June from NHCF.

Lionel brought up other organizations that the Town could tap for smaller grants i.e. American Rivers. Lionel asked Deb to contact Brian Graber. Brian is the Director of the River Restoration Program in the Northeast Region. Deb said she would and will also keep an eye out for other grants such as Trout Unlimited, USFWS, and other NOAA grant programs.

5. Oversight of the Feasibility Study – Mimi Becker:

Mimi Becker updated the committee by stating the Selection Committee (SC) is waiting until the contract is settled to sort out what functions to coordinate and facilitate. They will convene a meeting of the SC on how the group will proceed with the Feasibility Study monitoring throughout the summer. Paul Vlasich will get Mimi a schedule to use as a basis on when to meet. Mimi added the committee will need to be able to issue a news release. Paul mentioned they will have to include logo's of the funding agencies, as requirement of the grant.

Don Clement reminded the committee the EPA grant of \$60,000 expires June of 2012, stating the committee needs to be cognizant on how it is spent.

6. River Reconnaissance – Roger Wakeman:

Roger Wakeman informed the committee that PEA is reorganizing their environmental program and students will be helping with the river reconnaissance. Roger stated it is a good opportunity for PEA to support and contribute to the community. Students and adults will perform some reconnaissance within the next couple of weeks and into the fall. Key points are: Potential hazards to downstream structures or property; barriers to recreational navigation and locations of point source pollution. Phyllis Duffy will provide maps of the river to Roger.

Mimi Becker mentioned globe.gov to find observational protocols. Pete Richardson asked if their scope is PEA area only. Roger replied no, at the dam and up potentially to Pickpocket Dam.

7. Discussion of Future Tasks for the River Committee – Lionel Ingram:

Due to the length of the meeting this agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

8. Public Comment:

None

9. Adjourn the Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting was set for Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Rogers
Public Works Office Manager