

EXETER RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 26, 2012

1. Convene Meeting:

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Paul Vlasich-Town Engineer, Don Clement-Selectmen's Rep, Pete Richardson, Mimi Becker, Ginny Raub, Roger Wakeman-PEA Representative and Rod Bourdon were all in attendance. Absent: Deb Loiselle, NHDES and Kristen Murphy-Planning. Lionel convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

2. Minutes of 02/23/2012:

Mimi Becker made the following changes: Agenda item #3, next to the last paragraph, change *FIMA to FEMA*; agenda item # 5 change *Non Source Pollution to Non Source Point Pollution* in the agenda item description and the first sentence. A motion was made to approve the amended minutes by Don Clement and seconded by Pete Richardson. Vote was unanimous.

3. Status of the Feasibility Study – Paul Vlasich:

Paul Vlasich explained to the committee why he asked for the Public Meeting that was to be held in April 2012 postponed until May 2012. Some of the work that VHB has been doing on the hydrology part on what climate change means to the Exeter River some very interesting stuff was found out. Things like climate change is real, storm events are getting worse and rainfall is increasing. The rainfall for a 50 year storm is up by 30% and the 100 year storm is up by 44%. Paul explained the reason he asked for a delay in the Public Meeting was so they could review this information and get a handle on what it means. Paul stated that a lot of work has been done by Wright Pierce and they had come up with three (3) modification designs that met NH DES dam safety requirements. If we incorporate climate change into the river flows and run those same dam modification scenarios with the new flows of the river we no longer meet dam safety requirements. So what has been done is, through the current consultant, VHB and their sub consultants, Stone and Webster, there is an amendment to the contract that would figure out that the 50 year and 100 year storms would be with climate change and get those approved with the state. Then come up with a modification that would meet the requirements. The amendment is for \$13,000.00. VHB has a draft in hand of what those overflow figures will be.

This is important because we have to have a certain amount of "free board" during a 50 year storm event so we can meet dam safety requirements. If we currently went ahead we would meet dam safety requirements but the State has said they will incorporate new data and we will not meet the dam safety requirements. So if we went ahead and submit what we have with the Wright Pierce reports we could be possibly be in default day one of construction of the dam modification. We thought it was advisable to incorporate the climate change information. We have a contract with VHB for \$156,000 with a balance of about \$38,000 so we are on track budget wise on the project. We are waiting for some Governor in Council approval for some additional funds of \$12,000 which might be coming our way. We could use for that money for additional H&H, Hydrology and Hydraulic review, also for the photo renditions.

In the next couple of weeks there will be some of the historic documents will be going out to VHR and consulting parties for review. We are also waiting for some decisions from NH DES for the sediment transport and also sediment analysis and they will need additional testing for that.

4. The Public Meeting on May 23, 2012 - Mimi Becker:

Mimi Becker stated the public meeting that was originally scheduled for March 18, 2012 was postponed and re-scheduled to May 23, 2012. The meeting will be held at the Exeter Town Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The public meeting will have updated information from the consultants and it will be incorporated into the briefing materials that will be presented at the meeting. The meeting is designed as a public information meeting and is intended to update the public on what has been learned so far. There will be a presentation by the consultants with a time allotment for questions, clarifications, comments, and any kind of feedback the public has.

NH DES will be sending experts from the state agency who have had jurisdiction over dam removal programs. They can comment on where DES is with their thinking about any revisions or adaptation they have in relations to the study.

The working group is working on the details of the agenda which will be sent to the River Study Committee. A public notice has been done and sent to Paul Vlasich to distribute through the proper channels. It has been released and is currently on the town's website. Mimi stated she has asked Russ Dean if the notice could be placed on the front page of the website as a public meeting notice, it is currently listed under the River Study section of the website. Mimi feels Russ will allow that.

The working group will be meeting on May 16, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. with VHB to review the presentation to be sure it is clear and understandable. Paul Vlasich is to get that information from VHB to the working group by May 10, 2012 in order that they have time to review it before the May 16th meeting.

Mimi stated that Lionel Ingram will welcome the people and Mimi will facilitate it. Lionel agreed. Lionel asked Mimi if the newspapers have been contacted and Mimi replied yes. Also, Mimi has asked Russ Dean for use of the lighted billboard.

5. Non-Source Point Pollution – Ginny Raub:

Ginny Raub stated there was a table set up on the Town vote day March 13, 2012 with an “Exeter Water Quality Survey” for residents to fill out which is a pre base survey. They could either fill out the form there or take a card that had a website listed and go to it and fill it out on line. Kristen Murphy is still working on compiling the information. They received 60 surveys. The surveys were also mailed out to all the members of Town boards.

The videos from the “Think Blue May” campaign have been completed with voice over on Channell 98 for their messages. There are two messages for the rubber ducky; the yellow ducky one is for the stormwater pollution and the second red ducky with black horns, which is the deviled ducky for the evils of lawn care. They are only 30 second announcements.

The Girl Scout Troop, #20786, contacted Kristen Murphy that wanted to work on a project for their Silver Award which is the equivalent of the Eagle Scout Badge. Sunday, April 29, 2012 at Swasey Parkway there will be a “Project Blue” event/picnic. It will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The girls will have booths and tables set up with different topics; pet waste, lawn care, watershed. They will also have children activities.

There will be radio spots forthcoming on the “Think Blue” campaign.

Don Clement gave kudos to the Girl Scout Troop for being forthcoming enough to put on the exhibit. Don encouraged people to stop by and support the Troop.

Mimi Becker stated the opportunity for more watershed focuses is right here and whatever the Towns can do to help the watershed associations, and vice versa, to begin to think about that broader approach to non source point pollution should be done. It can't be done Town by Town, there are things that need to be consistent. Don stated the South East Water Shed Alliance (SEWSA) is having a meeting on May 9, 2012 at the Newington Town Hall where they will be presenting their draft of an ordinance or best practices if you will. Lionel asked Don to get a point of contact at PREP and SEWSA for future invitations to the River Study meetings to provide an informational briefing.

Don also informed the committee of an upcoming 2 year study being done by Dr. Kirshen, UNH on “Climate Adaptation Planning”. The focus will be on the urban compact area of Exeter. Exeter is positioned as a great

pilot because Exeter has an urban compact, so it has a lot of stormwater, ahead of tide and fresh water with a dam ahead of the tide.

6. River Reconnaissance – Roger Wakeman

Roger updated the committee stating that Jill Robinson was brought on at PEA as the Environmental Stewardship Manager and will be spear heading the river reconnaissance as well as other things. Jill will be taking a strong lead in their Natural Resource Management Committee which is where the River Reconnaissance will fall under. There are two areas that are being focused on: Hazards & barriers to navigation and assisting to the follow up on the point source pollution identification. They are hoping to get out onto the river in May. PEA has purchased kayaks and all the related gear as well as GPS to do the reconnaissance. Jill will be organizing volunteers of students as well as faculty. They will be working with science teachers on the sampling and point source pollution. Roger gave thanks to Jill for taking this on as one of her tasks.

Lionel Ingram asked Roger to share the information they receive with the River Study Committee and also pass the information on to Brian Comeau, Fire Chief. Don Clement stated that having identified areas with pictures and compiled data; that maybe in the spring there could be navigation of the river on a yearly basis to see what has happened over time.

Roger asked Lionel when there are barriers and hazards in the river i.e.; down trees who should it be brought to the attention. Roger stated he has worked with Bud Field, the Harbor Master on a recent tree. Lionel said to ask Bud who the point of contact should be. Lionel stated the Town deals with hazards up stream but not sure on downstream. Don stated that because you are crossing multiple Towns it may fall under the jurisdiction of the State. Roger stated that PEA was starting to see who would be the points of contact as far as the State agencies. Lionel asked Don Clement to look into it or at least get a point of contact.

7. Other Business

None

8. Public Comment:

None

9. Adjourn the Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m. The next meeting was set for Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Rogers
Office Manager-Public Works