

1. Convene Meeting:

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Paul Vlasich – Town Engineer, Don Clement – Selectmen’s Rep., Peter Richardson, Ginny Raub, Rod Bourdon, Frank Patterson, Phyllis Duffy – DPW, and Kristen Murphy – Planning were all in attendance. Absent: Mimi Becker, Richard Huber and Roger Wakeman – PEA Representative. Lionel convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

2. Minutes of 09/06/12:

Paul Vlasich made the following change: Agenda item #4, 2nd paragraph, 1st line should read NHDES *approved* not NHDES *provided*. A motion was made to approve the amended minutes by Pete Richardson, and seconded by Rod Bourdon. Vote was unanimous.

3. Non-point sources of pollution information program – Kristen Murphy:

(This agenda item was moved up to absent committee member time to arrive)

Kristen Murphy reported on the Fall Festival. The Conservation Commission had a table with the Blue information where they handed out Frisbees with information printed on them. They also had a billboard and information regarding minimizing storm run off. While the kids played with the Frisbees, they were able to talk with the adult who stopped at the booth. She reported that the booth was busy all day.

Lionel asked when the next questionnaire would go out. There is not a time frame for that as there is still review of the prior questionnaire to complete, but they may set up a table at the Town Meeting.

Frank Patterson asked if there is a possibility of using artwork to promote and encourage storm drain issues. Phyllis Duffy stated that was tried in the past without any luck.

Ginny Raub stated that Kristen had done a graph for the Conservation Commission showing awareness of the effects run off of salting of the roads has on water quality, and it showed that most who answered were aware of this issue. The graph also showed that not many people are washing their cars in their driveways.

Don Clement advised that Julie LaBranche RPC (Rockingham Planning Commission) had told him of an upcoming meeting of the Southeast Watershed Alliance. Don also reported that there is an exciting project with UNH and the Town of Exeter called CAPE (Climate Actuation Plan for Exeter) to study climate change impacts on the Exeter and Squamscott rivers, and how Exeter might be impacted over long periods.

Kristen also reported that the Town of Durham is interested in copying the Blue program.

4. Status of the Exeter River Great Dam Removal Impact Analysis and Feasibility Study – Paul Vlasich & Mimi Becker:

Paul Vlasich provided 2 handouts (Exeter River Alt. Plan 2 dated 9/18/12 and an aerial photo map. Mimi Becker was not in attendance.

Paul reported that VHB (Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin) had provided the first 2 draft chapters of the feasibility report (Background & Follow-Up) and a partial of the chapter on River Hydraulics is expected on November 2, 2012. Also, on Monday, November 5, 2012 bullet items should be ready for the consultant to think about.

As discussed at the last meeting, flows in the river rose from 4400 cfs to 5858 cfs for a 50 year high. Due to those results, a 3' crest gate no longer meets dam safety requirements, but would have construction requirements of a 4' crest gate with 2 flocking gates. Theses would require unfavorable waivers from the NH DES for the following:

- a. Crest gate – although automated has some manual needs
- b. Mechanical means is required to move gates around
- c. Slew skates require mechanical means to activate

Paul has asked the consultant to think about something for an option that wouldn't need so many unfavorable waivers.

Paul also reported that they are looking into sediment movement analysis. Lionel Ingram asked if additional studies would be required regarding the potential need to remove sediment. Paul stated that the analysis of Little River showed contaminant of mercury above Federal guidelines. Re-sampling was done prior to the storm to confirm the mercury presence. If the new sample comes back with the same or a higher concentration of mercury, then there would be a need for more follow-up as to how to approach the issue.

Lionel asked if there is a way that there might not be a need for additional height on the dam, or could it be entirely concrete. Paul advised that it would amount to dam removal. The spill off could be adjusted by widening the dam, but he would like to talk to the consultant more regarding other options.

Don Clement asked if it was premature to assume what might be needed pending further analysis, and what is the actual impact. It is unknown why there are high mercury levels and how they factor in the sediment transport.

Mimi was not in attendance for the subcommittee report, however Lionel Ingram wondered if going ahead with the December meeting would still have much unanswered. Don Clement felt that it might still be worthwhile to have the meeting for a status update, even if there are still unanswered questions. Any dam is going to look dramatically different, and a December time frame for the meeting would be better than waiting until January with other upcoming meetings, including the deliberative session.

A final decision on the meeting will be made at the November 8, 2012 work session.

There was discussion of that the cost of the dam construction is not inclusive of maintenance costs at this time.

Frank Patterson had questions regarding whether the bridge was a constriction and if the water rights of PEA (Phillips Exeter Academy) and fire suppression would be an issue. Paul said the bridge helps out the dam scenario and works favorably for the flow of the dam. Assurances were made that the fire suppression would be factored into plans.

5. The way ahead until the public meeting – Mimi Becker:

This item was not discussed, as Mimi was absent.

6. The way ahead after the public meeting – Lionel Ingram:

This item was not discussed, as item 5 was not discussed.

7. River reconnaissance – Roger Wakeman:

Roger Wakeman was not in attendance, but it was stated that the PEA students are not involved in this yet. Hopefully come spring both PEA and Exeter High School students would be involved and would be reporting to the committee on their progress.

8. Other business:

Pete Richardson asked to go back to discussion of the December meeting. If the meeting doesn't take place due to the sediment issues, how long would it take to have things ready for the meeting. Paul said that VHB was moving as though there are no changes in the plan, so they would be prepared in 20 days. As for the sediment issue, Weston & Sampson should be able to meet deadlines for December for the problems. Lionel felt that the public could still be given updates.

9. Public comment:

None

10. Adjourn the Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next regular meeting was set for Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.