

EXETER RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 21, 2013

1. Convene Meeting:

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Mimi Becker, Richard Huber, Peter Richardson, Rod Bourdon and Frank Patterson were all in attendance. Lionel convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

2. Minutes of 11/1/12:

Lionel Ingram polled the Committee for any changes to the minutes of March 14th 2013. Frank Patterson requested the following changes:

1. Change devise to device, page 1
2. Currently on the calendar, page 1
3. Green infrastructure decreases, not increases, page 3
4. Paul instead of shared, page 4

Chairman Ingram requested the minutes to be updated for public record.

Chairman Ingram made a motion to approve the minutes from March 14th, 2013 with the above changes. Chairwoman Becker seconded the motion. Motion carried – all in favor.

3. Status of the Exeter River Great Dam Removal Impact Analysis and Feasibility Study (Mimi Becker)

Paul Vlasich (Town Engineer) provided an update on the Alternatives Development contract per the request of Chairwoman Becker.

- A meeting was held on Monday March 18, 2013 with a new sub-consultant by the name of VHB/Schmidt which provided non-waiver options of Dam modification.
- There are 6-8 options available for this modification.
- VHB Schmidt will provide a general idea of the costs on April 4th2013. They will present the pros and cons of each and make recommendations for the best options.
- They will have one week to decide which two they like the best.
- VHB Schmidt will do an in depth study and relay that to the current issues the committee is reviewing.
- Another meeting will take place on May 2nd 2013. VHB Schmidt will present to the group again. VHB Schmidt will have until the end of May to put the draft together.

Chairwoman Becker explained fish passage must be considered with Dam removal and Dam modification. There are safety requirements and the analysis must include all parameters they have laid out.

Paul Vlasich asked the committee to invite Eric Hutchins (Federal Representative from the Dam Bureau) and a Representative from Fish and Game to attend a live, televised meeting and each provide a report so Fish and Game and the DAM Bureau agree on the dam modification.

Chairwoman Becker stated June 30th 2013 is the absolute drop dead date that all the tasks on Federal and State levels must be completed. Each organization must deliver to the Town of Exeter no later than July 29th2013. This would reflect any comments that arise from the public and any changes from that result.

Chairman Ingram asked what would happen if there are big issues before June 30th 2013. Paul Vlasich explained the details will be written in the contract and the question of how to solve the problem of dam modification with future activities if the dam is removed will be included.

There was discussion of working with a UNH group for the NOAA grant. Paul Vlasich explained that the

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Town did make submission for that grant.

Chairman Ingram stated there is one problem that exists, the purpose behind this grant is this is a requirement to get this on board in the effect the dam needs to be removed; this is not preconceived as prejudging the outcome. Lionel wanted it to be made clear to the public so a negative judgment would not be made in the event the restoration efforts are not successful and the dam needs to be removed.

4. The way ahead (Lionel Ingram and Mimi Becker)

Chairwoman Becker reviewed the timeline for the meetings to take place.

April 4 th	Revised Feasibility Report draft will be received and reviewed. They will have to wait on the Alternatives.
April 11 th	Address the Alternatives that will be presented to them.
May 2 nd	Review the Alternatives decision along with the revisions of the hydraulics. The Poster needs to be ready by then to provide the public with a 30 day notice.
May 20 th	VHP Schmidt will have the full report including any revisions. They will approve the draft agenda and the 30 day notice.
June 6 th	Review the final coordination meeting and the Public meeting presentation.
June 26 th	Public meeting
July 29 th	Results from each organization must be delivered to the Town of Exeter.

Chairwoman Becker stated they have to have a Draft Report available no less than two weeks prior, for the public to review. The Draft Feasibility Report committee would like the River Committee to be the official Transmitter.

Chairman Ingram pointed out that a 106 Process (NHPA) may be required due to the possibility of the area around the dam being disturbed. He also asked the committee for their recommendations for a next meeting between May 20th and June 6th. The next meeting date will be confirmed at a later time.

5. Update from and discussion with the Climate Adaptation Plan for Exeter (CAPE) team (Paul Kirshen)

Chairman Ingram confirmed the meeting being held by NH Listens on April 10th 2013 at the Exeter High School. Chairman Ingram asked if NH Listens is a presentation or an activity which led into a discussion with Semra Aytur (UNH Public Health and Epidemiology Assistant Research Professor).

Professor Aytur provided key points about the meeting.

- There will be interactive small groups of 8-10 people.
- They provide a structured and facilitated presentation to enable open discussions.
- Assesses what the community has and the vulnerability of that community
- Allows people to provide feedback and discuss their concerns
- There is a mapping component and exercise
- There will be evaluation of components at the end of the gathering

Professor Aytur explained the purpose of this first meeting is to allow the public a platform to get together and work through things they care about in their town.

Chairman Ingram suggested Professor Ayter reach out to a number of advertising methods.

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- A Press Release Through the town
- Channel 22
- Exeter Patch
- The TV station at the high school (Doug York is the contact).
- Facebook and possibly Twitter

Chairman Ingram opened the discussion with Paul Kirshen (UNH Civil Engineering Research Professor) since Paul Vlasich (Town Engineer) was delayed coming back from another meeting.

Paul Kirshen (Project Manager) for the CAPE study (Climate Adaption Plan for Exeter) explained they hired NH Listens which is a group of social scientists with experts who try and understand how people feel about these large public issues.

Professor Ayter advised there is a discussion guide that is in the development stages. It will provide the public with basic facts that may include climate change, possible impacts of the Exeter River, and increase in flow over time.

Paul Kirshen (Project Manager) for the CAPE study (Climate Adaption Plan for Exeter) explained that after the meeting they will continue to reach out to interest group and community groups with the Town of Exeter and educate the community.

Professor Ayter described the evaluation of components that derive from the dialogue would lead to an evaluation. This will determine how much people learned from the meeting, how the project fits into the adaption piece of the town and will provide the community with awareness and opportunities to engage with NH Listens and get more involved.

Paul Kirshen (Project Manager) asked members of the River Committee to meet again in August and if they would be interested in providing input. He would like to look at models and scenarios with the science team and arrange a group that would understand practical analysis so the results of the study are transparent and made clear to the town. Chairman Ingram indicated there is interest in building a relationship with CAPE, whether it is individual participation or the entire Committee. Paul Kirshen asked if meeting with the Committee for 1 hour a month would be an option. Chairmen Ingram indicated there are currently projects in place and as the year goes on more time would be available to work with CAPE and NH Listens. Chairman Richardson stated he does not want to lose focus on current projects until July 2013.

Chairman Peterson explained he does not want their participation to exclude other people. Chairman Ingram advised that the meetings can take place during the River Committee meeting so everyone can stay informed.

Chairman Huber requested additional information on the models that will be presented. Paul Kirshen gave examples of what models will be presented via laptop.

- Exeter Squamscot Basin HSPF, which models Hydrology and Pollution.
- GHLF, models HSPF (Hydrological Simulation Program – Fortran)

Chairman Richardson suggested contacting Teresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission to broaden the involvement and include other area communities, possibly those that are upstream. The representatives from CAPE and NH Listens will contactor Teresa Walker and widen the boundaries of involvement.

Chairman Ingram suggested contacting Selectman Don Clement, who is also a member of ERLAC, the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee. Selectman Clement would be a source to provide input for the entire water shed and possibly form a similar relationship as with the River Committee.

Chairman Huber asked Paul Kirshen if snow, wind and beach erosion are in the scope of the study as climate change effects or if it was mostly flood and river effects. Paul Kirshen confirmed the focus is mainly the Exeter Squamscot River and the impacts of non-point pollution (rain/snow fall) and flooding.

Professor Ayter advised this will be addressed after the April 10th, 2013 meeting.

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Chairwoman Becker explained this is vulnerability assessment and there is a whole range of vulnerabilities arising from a storm event to public infrastructure and questioned how CAPE plans on filtering out concerns.

Paul Kirshen explained his group would only focus on local drainage, buildings and flooding.

Chairwoman Becker asked how CAPE would factor the impact of a huge storm that causes tremendous damage into the big frame and suggested they keep track of the data that comes in and use that data as a consideration in the large component of such a plan to prevent any potential credibility issues.

Professor Ayter stated they are still in the process of clarifying information however; they are working on three themes:

- Impacts to people and private property
- Impact to Infrastructure (mostly Public)
- Impacts to natural resources.

Paul Kirshen pointed out it also effects climate change and ecosystems and monitoring low flows and high flows. There will be focus on the aquatic activities and impact. The impact of high winds, ice and heat will not be addressed. They do not lack the scientific approach, but lack the resources.

Paul Vlasich (Town Engineer) requested a scope of what the Grant says to be added to the Town website. Chairman Ingram requested the technical information to be included. The representatives from CAPE and NH Listens will provide the information.

Chairman Ingram asked the Exeter River committee and UNH NOAA to provide an update on May 18th, 2013 since he, Frank and Kristen do not belong to the Working Group.

6. Other Business

Chairmen Ingram confirmed the River Committee will allocate an hour of the next meeting to enable CAPE/NH Listens to presentation an update to the group on May 18th 2013.

Chairman Ingram pointed out the Reedy River Restoration in Greenville, SC is a good resource to review. Professor Ayter will research the link online for further information.

Paul Kirshen from CAPE requested to be added to the mailing list for the ERWG (Exeter River Working Group). Chairwomen Becker will add Paul to the mailing list.

Paul Kirshen expressed his concerns about missing major issues about the Exeter River. The committee provided points to ponder.

- Non-point source pollution
- Ground point source pollution
- Low D O, the fish will die
- Non-function Septic system
- 65 water ways plus some that were just discovered

Some of the concern is the Exeter River leads into the Great Bay which is also used as a drinking source. There could be pockets of vector-borne diseases (mosquitos). Chairman Ingram confirmed there are no resources or funds for this work or code enforcement.

Kristen Murphy discussed the education effort for non-point source solution. She explained Exeter is a MS4 committee and work as an out-reach community. They have used sources such as the website, Channel 98, channel 22; they held an earth day picnic by the Girl Scouts, and Radio commercials on station WXEX to reach the public.

A master study written by Derek Sours and Steve Jones was discussed. The study was funded with DES money and a GIS.

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Kristen Murphy offered her opinion on the flyer for NH Listens and encouraged additional information be added to reach a wider range of communities. Professor Ayter will present the revised flyer at the next meeting.

The State of the Estuaries Report presents the efforts of each community and what improvements are being made. The Committee would like to review this report; however, they are heavily loaded with projects at this time. It will be discussed further on May 18th 2013.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

8: Adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned 11:20 am.