

1. **Convene Meeting:** The meeting convened at 9:00 AM in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices. Members Present: Roger Wakeman, Peter Richardson, Lionel Ingram, Dr. Mimi Larsen Becker, Virginia Raub, Richard Huber, Don Clement, Frank Patterson. IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Vlasich (DPW Rep), Sallie Soule (NHDES), Deb Loiselle (NHDES).
2. **Minutes of the 15 May Minutes:** The minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next River Study meeting.
3. **Discussion of the status of the Dam's removal and the River's restoration:** Mr. Vlasich said that the Town did not receive the Sandy Grant funds. The plan is to get a contract together with VHB to take to the select board for consideration with the consulting firm. Mid July is when bond money will be available. Mr. Vlasich discussed the other options for funding. The Aquatic Resource Mitigation fund is due August 18 and the Town is requesting \$100,000. The 319 Watershed Assistance grant which helped with the Dam removal feasibility study is due July 11 and the town is requesting \$200,000. Deb Loiselle and Sally Soule are available to help with the application.

Mr. Vlasich talked about the ongoing issue with the water intake for the Mills. The town has to fine tune the contract with VHB (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc) and find a solution to get water to the Mills. In the feasibility study, options were given to supply water to the Mills. The Mills have a consultant to review the options in the report.

Board Questions

Mr. Wakeman asked if VHB had a design contract and Mr. Vlasich replied the contract was also for permitting.

Mr. Ingram asked about the pace of the dam removal now that the two year timeline required by the Sandy Grant is no longer an issue. Mr. Vlasich replied there was a lot of coordination to prepare the Sandy Grant. The town had found a way to finish the project in two years and so the schedule is not thrown off without the Sandy Grant. In saying that the Town is not bound to the two year timeline as specified by the grant but may be bound by the Aquatic Resource Mitigation fund and the 319 grants.

Mr. Huber asked about a scenario where no grants are awarded to the town. Mr. Clement said the dam removal project is rolled into the town bond with other projects. It is a 10 year bond with variable tax rate but will not affect the tax rate for the year 2015. Mr. Huber suggested it would be helpful for the town to understand the finances of the dam removal.

Public Comment

Mr. Don Robie of Exeter asked when the public would know the financing of the project. Mr. Clement said that the Town had voted for the removal and the bond is secured. Dr. Becker said it should be mentioned that the Town is applying for additional grants to reduce the cost.

Dr. Becker said to look for resources to help put together a program for monitoring what happens after the dam is removed including ecological and historical impacts.

Dennis Brady of Exeter commented that at a previous Selectman's meeting the acting chairman could not answer the out come of the Sandy Grant the day the results came out.

Mr. Ingram said an effort was made to request for bond money and grants and that the Town is doing its best to make money available for the project.

Dr. Becker suggested creating a newsletter of on going efforts.

Mr. Frank Ferraro of Green Leaf Dr., Exeter commented that the Town did not get the bond to pay for everything right away but for consultation and permitting.

Dr. Becker said it was premature to talk about impacts to public taxes. She said the bonded money is transferred based on specific components to the project.

Mr. Ingram thanked Sally Soule, Deb Loiselle and Paul Vlasich for working on the grants.

Ms. Loiselle said the Town still needs to write a letter outlining future plans to the NH Dam Bureau.

Mr. Ingram announced the next meeting to be July 10, 2014.

Mr. Wakeman asked to define the roll of the subcommittee in relation to the discussion of the reissuance of Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) flood insurance maps. Mr. Ingram said they may be working with Eric Hutchinson from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the FEMA maps. Mr. Wakeman said when the dam is removed; areas upstream of the dam will be changed. Dr. Becker said there is a deadline to respond to the new FEMA maps and the Committee should coordination with the Planning Commission.

Mr. Clement brought some information on the town bond. He said it would be a ten year bond with a tax impact of about seventy six cents.

Mr. Clement noted that the National Flood Insurance Program is not able to subsidize flood insurance which would mean an incremental increase in rates.

Mr. Wakeman said with the removal of the dam there should be a dialogue in relation to floods. Mr. Vlasich said the Committee used the old FEMA maps to conduct the feasibility study with critical areas outlined in the study. The rainfall data is older and contains older flood limits. With the proposed flood limits by the dam removal option there is no difference with the old and new maps but a change in storm events. The CAPE study reported abutters to the dam will see additional flooding.

Mr. Ingram asked if there could be an extension to the FEMA maps deadline. It is not certain what the facts would be in the near future. The town could reduce the insurance costs with the proper process.

4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Next Meeting:** July 10,2014

6. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Sarah McGraw