

**River Advisory Committee**

May 17, 2018

**1. Convene the meeting**

Chairman Richard Huber convened the meeting at 3:04 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Hall office building. Other members present were: Rod Bourdon, Virginia Raub, Terrie Harman, Selectboard representative Don Clement and Town Engineer Paul Vlasich.

**2. Approval of April 19, 2018 minutes**

With the Chair offering corrections to the April meeting minutes, Ms. Harmon then motioned to approve the minutes with changes; seconded by Mr. Bourdon. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Update on Various River Related Items**

Mr. Vlasich referenced the FEMA and LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) approval process and the required Informational Meeting where residents had the opportunity to hear a presentation and view the newly revised flood plain district and determine how it may affect their properties. That meeting was held May 10, 2018 at the Exeter High school. Before the newly defined district (as outlined in LOMR) is approved by FEMA there are two other review periods and with no further revisions the Town may expect FEMA approval by late October, early November 2018.

Mr. Vlasich did say property owners may go to Town web site and click on River Advisory committee under **Boards and Commissions** to view the four documents pertinent to this phase of approval: *Letter of Notification, Notice of Public Information session, Material used in the May 10 Informational session and the Flood Plain and Parcel work maps.*

Mr. Vlasich then addressed the MS4 storm water EPA program mandating Towns to look at their drainage systems and storm water runoff> The new regulations will become effective in July of this year. By October 1, 2018 the Town must notify EPA with a notice of intent of how Town is to address these new rules.

Along with the present construction of the new waste water treatment facility there are additional stipulations for Nitrogen control. The Town is also being required to submit a Nitrogen (N) Control plan on how the Town will addresses the removal of the N before going into the Exeter/Squamscott Rivers. This plan is to be submitted by September of this year.

Lastly, he stated his department is working to determine what should be included in the upcoming Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program to address the concerns outlined in the Pickpocket Dam analysis.

**4. Update on the May 26th event related to the Exeter Dam Removal Documentary**

Mr. Bob Glowacky, executive Producer for Exeter TV 98 and producer for the upcoming First Alewife Film Festival provided the members final details of the event. He shared the posters being distributed around Town noting the May 26, 2018 event being held at the Phelps Academy Center on Tan Lane in The Forum room. Starting at 6:00 there will be a block of short features on varying topics followed by the 30 minute documentary on the Great Dam removal project filmed by Mr. Glowacky. Following the feature film will be a Q &A with a panel of

experts involved in the removal project. But, he hopes to open the session to the public on questions of their choice. He did add trailers of the dam film may be viewed on the Facebook page of Exeter TV 98.

He also agreed to send on the graphic link for the poster if there are members that wish to download and print the poster to circulate in places of employment or residence.

Mr. Glowacky then asked the Chair if he may speak as a resident of Brentwood and as a member of the Brentwood Conservation Commission on the topic of the Pickpocket Dam and the analysis.

Mr. Huber agreed and Mr. Glowacky reported that the Town Managers of Exeter and Brentwood have been in touch on the findings of the analysis and he asked how the Brentwood residents may become involved.

Mr. Clement felt it was a bit premature until Exeter determines what direction the Town will take. When the Town does make any decision any and all public hearings that are held the residents are welcomed to attend and ask questions. Again, as to the extent that Brentwood residents may partake in the hearings as non-residents will be at the discretion of the presiding Chairman.

Mr. Vlasich returned to the podium to add that Exeter, as the legal owner of the Dam, will bear the burden of the expense needed for studies and implementation. If Brentwood would be willing to help in sharing some of the expense involved in looking at all the options that would certainly help move the project along.

Mr. Huber asked if there was any benefit in the two towns seeking grant assistance. Mr. Vlasich felt again it was too premature.

#### **5. Notice of vacancies in the membership of the River Advisory Committee of Exeter**

Mr. Huber confirmed there were two vacancies on the committee; one is a member at large that any resident wishing to apply may fill. The other vacancy is for a representative from the Water and Sewer Committee to sit on this committee. He will reach out to the Water and Sewer group to see if they can provide a representative.

#### **6. Other Business**

Mr. Clement commented the alewives have come up the river in great numbers. Their presence created quite a sight several weeks ago with viewers along the banks witnessing the unusual phenomenon of masses of river herring waiting to make their way upstream. Mr. Clement said Bob Glowacky filmed a video that may be viewed on Exeter TV98 Facebook page. He noted they tend to come in spurts when water and weather conditions are optimum and will most likely be another surge.

The Chair inquired if any member had attended the Coastal Adaption Workgroup (CAW) on Sea Level Rise on April 26, 2018. Mr. Clement stated he did attend and found the presentation by two UNH workers to be very interesting and informative. One impact resulting from sea level rise is on wells, septic systems and road beds as the saline waters push up from underneath thus becoming mixed with the ground water. He cited an example of community wells in a residential development along Great Bay showing increasing signs of salinity. It appears location and soil type are factors for infiltration of sea level rise into groundwater systems.

Mr. Huber noted the same group, CAW, is holding a 2018 NH Coastal Climate Summit; Municipalities Rising to the Climate Change. It is a day-long meeting, 8 am to 3 pm, on Wednesday June 21 at the Hugh Gregg Conservation Center in Greenland. It is to bring together citizens concerned about impacts of climate change in coastal NH.

Visit the NH Coastal Adaption Workgroup web site for more information and to register.

#### **7. Public comment**

There was no public comment at this time

**The next meeting for the committee was set for Thursday, June 22, 2018 at 3 pm.**

With no further business, Ms. Harman motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Clement.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Raub