

River Advisory Meeting

June 21, 2018

1. Convene the meeting

Chairman Richard Huber convened the meeting at 3:05 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Hall office building. Other members present were: Rod Bourdon, Terrie Harman, Selectboard representative Don Clement and Town Engineer Paul Vlasich.

2. Approval of May 17, 2018 minutes

Mr. Huber noted the incorrect use of a punctuation mark and the date for the June meeting was in error. With those corrections noted the motion to approve as amended passed unanimously. It was determined with four members present there was a quorum to approve the minutes.

3. Update on Various River Related Items

Mr. Vlasich referenced the FEMA and LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) approval process and the May 10, 2018 informational meeting held at the Exeter High School. That process is moving forward with no updates. Again, he stated maps and the informational meeting may be viewed on Town website, exeternh.gov in side bar *Supporting Documents* on the River Advisory Committee site.

As for the Pickpocket Dam, he noted the Town will be receiving a Letter of Deficiency (LOD) from NH DES Dam Bureau outlining the new criteria for compliance to the revised classification of the dam as a High Hazard dam. To address the new requirements the Town will be preparing items to be funded through the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and if approved by the Budget Recommendation committee and the Selectboard they will then appear on the March 2019 Town warrant. One study planned is to run an analysis of a 2.5 times 100 year storm event to serve as a baseline. This will be just one component of the program and feels the LOD will outline specific dates and schedules to meet the requirements.

The MS4 stormwater program requirements are out and the Town needs to be prepared to follow those rules. A Letter of Intent on how nitrogen runoff will be addressed must be filed by October 1, 2018. Not only is Exeter preparing such a proposal, other surrounding seacoast communities are also working in concert on their proposals so all the towns are outlining the same basic tenets and philosophy.

Even with the construction of the new wastewater treatment facility there are additional requirements needed to further reduce that runoff. The Town will be submitting to EPA by September 30, 2018 a Notice of Intent on how the Town will address the new requirements for removing additional nitrogen from non-point sources including drainage systems and stormwater runoff. Work on this Nitrogen Control plan is being finalized and a presentation will be made to the Selectboard showing the magnitude of the nitrogen, where it is coming from, possible ways to remove/reduce runoff and costs associated with implementing the various items. With this presentation the decision will follow as to what plan the Town will submit to the EPA by the September deadline. Mr. Vlasich added as part of the outreach component of the contract, the consultants will give the same presentation to this committee.

Mr. Huber inquired what was included in the term non-point source nitrogen. Mr. Vlasich replied it includes all that is in the runoff from impervious surfaces that has entrapped impurities from its surfaces i.e. septic systems, farming activity, parking lots. Mr. Clement cited a recent study that broke down the percentage of nitrogen and its source for this watershed. He remarked the largest contributor of

nitrogen is deemed “atmospheric deposition” where pollutants, in this case nitrogen, reach the earth via precipitation events and other air pollution sources. This is the hardest to control and treat.

In further discussion as to percentages and sources of nitrogen pollution, Mr. Vlasich added the report of the consultants, Wright- Pierce and Horsley Witten will include figures and diagrams mined from a number of recent studies addressing nitrogen pollution into the Exeter/Squamscott watershed. He also cited an earlier June 2015 document entitled Nitrogen Control Plan Phase 1 Task 1. This report and other Total Nitrogen and Stormwater reports may be found on Public Works Department section of the town website, in the sidebar *Stormwater* and Permits and Reports. At this locale the report titled Nitrogen Control plan Task 1 phase/report 2 focuses on what you can do to reduce nitrogen from various sources and controls on non-point pollution.

The Town already knows what we have, what we can do to address the sources and the costs associated with doing so. At this point, Mr. Vlasich added, there is the need to refine the material in a manner the Town can understand and what (measures) will be submitted to the EPA as the Nitrogen Control plan.

Mr. Vlasich, responding to Ms. Harman’s question, re-affirmed the consultants plan to be at the August meeting of this committee after giving the same presentation earlier in the month to the Selectboard.

Mr. Vlasich was thanked for his update.

4. Consideration of the First Annual Alewife Film Festival conducted at PEA on May 26

Mr. Huber felt it was well attended taking in account the date and the location at a PEA facility not necessarily known to the Town community. Following a number of shorter films on various environment/wildlife topics Mr. Glowacky’s half-hour documentary on the Great Dam Removal project was shown. After the film, there was a panel discussion and Mr. Huber was asked to talk on the role of this committee in the project.

Following the discussion, Mr. Huber was approached by two attendees from Maine who were very interested in Exeter’s story/process (of dam removal) as they were facing similar issues in Maine. Mr. Huber stated he has been in contact with them online supplying various contacts.

5. Consideration of the 2018 NH Coastal Climate Summit conducted on June 20th

The NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW) sponsored this program held at the Great Bay Discovery Center in Stratham on June 20, 2018.

Ms. Harman reported she was able to attend the meeting and found it very well presented. The panelists were organized, brief and concise. The program allowed time to network with the attendees and were encouraged to do so.

Something she had not considered before, and found interesting, was the number of hours calculated on the effect of climate change on roads and transportation primarily due to flooding. In coastal towns going through incoming salt water caused premature damage to their emergency vehicles resulting in increased costs, re-routing of vehicles, and the ongoing effect of carbon emissions from vehicles idling and going extra distances.

Mr. Huber reading from the printed agenda noted two presenters were listed under the agenda topic: Exeter Resilience Initiatives. Julie LaBranche of the RPC and Rob Rosen of Waterstone Engineers spoke on the stormwater project in the Lincoln Street watershed area that included the Water Trail.¹

Also Jennifer Perry, Director of Public Works, spoke on Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades.

Also, an agenda item at the workshop was a presentation from a new report from the Union of Concerned Scientists. Mr. Huber had a copy of the report entitled Underwater: Rising Seas, Chronic Floods, and the Implications for US Coastal Real Estate (2018). He found it very comprehensive and noted it and the various links to the support data may be viewed at ucsusa.org/underwater.

6. Notice of vacancies in the membership of the River Advisory Committee of Exeter

Mr. Huber re-iterated this committee has a vacancy for an Exeter citizen and for a representative of the Water/Sewer Advisory committee. Mr. Clement will mention the vacancy to the Selectboard representative to that group for an announcement at their next meeting.

7. Other business

Mr. Clement spoke of the Town boat launch site being closed due to unsafe conditions in the wooden ramp and underpinnings. Repairs to the ramp require a permit from DES. The application has been made and the Parks and Rec Department are waiting for the approved permit before repairs can begin.

And he also reported through the generosity of the Lions Club a kayak cradle will be installed alongside the launch ramp. This will allow the boater to get in and out of their kayak more easily.

8. Next meeting is set for Thursday August 23, 2018

With no other business the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Raub

¹ Ms. LaBranche presented this program to the River Advisory Committee at the March meeting