

Town of Exeter
River Advisory Committee
Nowak Room
January 17, 2019
3:00 PM
Approved Minutes

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8 1. Convene Meeting
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10 Chairman Huber convened the meeting at 3:00 PM on January 17, 2019. In attendance were Committee
11 members: Richard Huber, Chairman, Lionel Ingram, Rod Bourdon, Dan Jones, Terrie Harmon, Virginia
12 Raub, Conservation Representative and Don Clement, Select Board. Also present were: Paul Vlasich,
13 Town Engineer.
14

15 2. Approve Minutes – November 15, 2018.
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17 Chair Huber recommended amendments to the November 15, 2018 minutes.
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19 Mr. Clement motioned to approve the November 15, 2018 minutes as amended, 2nd by Ms. Harmon,
20 voting 7-0 in favor with no abstentions, so moved.
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22 3. Update (Various River Related Activities) – Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer
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24 Paul Vlasich, the Town Engineer presented an update on various topics related to the river ways.
25

26 1. Pickpocket Dam
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28 Mr. Vlasich reported that the \$400,000 proposed for the budget to perform the various tasks
29 has been put off a year and was reduced at the budget meeting to \$40,000. The emergency
30 action plan needs to be updated and there are breach analysis comments to put to legal
31 counsel. Mr. Vlasich advised there has been no official letter or deadlines to meet right now.
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33 Mr. Clement noted this will eventually show up as a Warrant Article at Town Meeting following
34 Deliberative Session.
35

36 2. MS4 Stormwater Permit
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38 Mr. Vlasich noted two deadlines, one at the end of June for the Stormwater Management Plan
39 and for submission of the Illicit Discharge Detection Elimination, IDDE document.
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41 Ms. Harmon asked who requested by June? – the EPA. Mr. Vlasich explained that there are also
42 groups within the state level who provide assistance for towns through coalitions.

43 3. – Nitrogen Control Plan

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45 Mr. Vlasich reported the Nitrogen Control Plan was submitted to the EPA in accordance with
46 their deadline and there has been no response. Mr. Clement questioned whether that could be
47 due to the government shutdown.

48

49 4. Presentation Melissa Paly, Great Bay Piscataqua Waterkeeper, Conservation Law Foundation
50 *“From Exeter to the Atlantic – How’s the Health of the Great Bay Estuary?”*

51

52 Melissa Paly, who is the Great Bay Piscataqua Waterkeeper, provided a presentation concerning the
53 Great Bay Estuary water system which is comprised of several rivers, Great Bay, Little Bay, and the
54 Piscataqua River which runs into Portsmouth Harbor and encompasses 52 communities, ten in Maine
55 and 42 in New Hampshire. Great Bay Estuary is one of 28 significant estuaries in the United States. Ms.
56 Paly explained that an Estuary is more than just an area of brackish water where fresh water from the
57 river meets the sea but is an important filter for water and spawning ground for many species as well as
58 an indicator of the health of the local ecosystem. All of these are important not only to the health of the
59 water and fish species but to home values, tourism and the economy and recreation. Mrs. Paly
60 explained how the Estuary can be affected by other communities and the importance of working
61 together to monitor its health. Mrs. Paly stressed the importance of establishing a healthy eel grass
62 blanket in the estuary as well as increasing the number of filter species such as oysters and the effects of
63 excess nitrogen levels on those.

64

65 Mrs. Paly explained what are some known sources of excess nitrogen such as septic systems and poor
66 drainage, and underperforming waste water treatment plants and some cost effective solutions such as
67 limiting the use of fertilizers, picking up pet waste, diverting storm water via rain gutters to grassy
68 swails, the use of wetlands plantings, buffers, tying in to municipal sewer systems, dam removal and
69 upgrades to wastewater treatment plants.

70

71 Mrs. Paly referenced the report done by Waterstone Engineering which could be found on the Exeter
72 DPW website. Chair Huber recommended having Rob Roseen from Waterstone come in to give a talk on
73 his report.

74

75 ***Mr. Clement motioned to obtain a copy of the Waterstone Engineering report, 2nd by Ms. Harmon,***
76 ***with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

77

78 Mrs. Paly recommended taking four members of the Board out in the Summer to view the Estuary.

79

80 5. Notice of Vacancies in the Membership of the River Advisory Committee of Exeter

81

82 Chair Huber indicated there are still vacancies from PEA and Water/Sewer.

83

84 6. Other Business

85

86 Mr. Ingram attended the NH Dam negotiation workshop. Mr. Vlasich also attended.

87 7. (Strip of Land – Fish Species Kiosk Proposal) – Tabled.

88

89 Bob Glowacky of Exeter TV was not present.

90

91 8. Discussion of the draft River Advisory Committee’s submission for the 2018 Annual Town
92 Report

93

94 Chair Huber will submit the report.

95

96 **The Next Meeting of the Exeter River Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at**
97 **3:00 PM.**

98 Chair Huber asked for input ideas for the next agenda which hopefully can include Kristen Murphy.

99 Chair Huber will email Russell Dean concerning Ms. Murphy and the Volunteer River Assessment
100 Program.

101 Adjourn

102

103 Chairman Huber by motion made and duly seconded and approved unanimously, to adjourn the
104 meeting at 4:45 PM.

105

106 Respectfully submitted,

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108

109 Daniel Hoijer,
110 Recording Secretary

111 *Via Exeter TV*