

Town of Exeter
River Advisory Committee
Nowak Room
February 21, 2019
3:00 PM
Draft Minutes

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 1. Convene Meeting
9

10 Chairman Huber convened the meeting at 3:00 PM on February 21, 2019. In attendance were
11 Committee members: Richard Huber, Chairman, Rod Bourdon, Virginia Raub, Conservation
12 Representative and Don Clement, Select Board. Also present were Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer and
13 Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner.
14

15 2. Minutes of the January 17, 2019 Meeting
16

17 Chairman Huber recommended amending the minutes to include the definition of IDDE on Page 2, Line
18 38 which is Illicit Discharge Detection Elimination and to change "health" to "healthy" on Line 61.
19

20 Mr. Clement motioned to approve the January 17, 2019 minutes as amended. Ms. Raub seconded the
21 motion, with all in favor, so moved.
22

23 3. Update on Various River Related Items (Paul)
24

25 Mr. Vlasich reported that the Pickpocket Dam project will become part of the Town Warrant Article for
26 \$40,000 to address NH DES comments regarding breach analysis and update the emergency action plan
27 relative to the inundation areas downstream.
28

29 Mr. Vlasich introduced the presentation put together with Robert Roseen of Waterstone Engineering
30 relative to the Lincoln Street Watershed. The documents are located on the Public Works website under
31 "Storm Water."
32

33 4. Presentation: on the Lincoln Street Sub watershed Nutrient Control Strategies (Robert Roseen,
34 PE, PhD. - Waterstone Engineering)
35

36 Mr. Roseen of Waterstone Engineering presented a Power Point presentation on the Lincoln Street 1
37 and 2 phases of the nutrient reduction plan also referred to as the WISE project which stands for Water
38 Integration Squamscott Exeter project.
39

40 Mr. Roseen gave a brief timeline of some of the events that generated the areas of study and funding by
41 the NH Coastal Program and Rockingham Planning Commission from the time the Great Bay was
42 identified as nitrogen impaired in 2009 and placed on the Clean Water Act list.
43

44 Mr. Roseen noted that with the rise in population in coastal communities there are increased amounts
45 of impervious surface added to events of climate change and extreme rainfall and sea level rise and
46 storm surges in what is referred to as the ten-year storm. Projections were given to mitigate nutrient
47 reduction and flood mitigation through 2024.
48

49 Mr. Roseen discussed raising awareness through Innovative Communications and the installation of the
50 water trail between the Main Street and Lincoln Elementary Schools, grades K-5 as well as low-tech fact
51 sheets that provided an overview, economic benefits, areas of flood loss, potential stormwater retrofits
52 and climate adaption as well as the benefits of having a Climate Adaption Policy supported by the
53 Master Plan, an audit of zoning and regulations, community initiatives, awareness, coordination with
54 officials together with greenspace, stormwater and wastewater management. "Hazus" as used by
55 FEMA, is a tool for not only damage estimating but used for impact forecasting modeled with the 2010
56 census information and helps to assess the financial and other impacts which Mr. Roseen was careful to
57 point out are predicted not actual or historical as Mr. Clement pointed out.

58
59 Mr. Roseen noted the Lincoln Street Watershed is the largest in Town and covers 180 acres and
60 generates 1300 lbs. of nitrogen annually. Mr. Roseen showed an aerial map of the Lincoln Street area,
61 including the PEA campus, Front Street, Railroad, Elm Street and Washington. Mr. Roseen discussed
62 locations suitable for Best Management Practices or BMPs which he numbered in each phase, with
63 phase II included the downtown area which could be prone to loss of business and buildings in a 10-year
64 storm event. The retrofits could cut the financial damage loss by half or 51% with an investment of
65 \$700,000.

66
67 Mr. Clement asked if the flooding was surface including roads and properties and included depth
68 analysis as part of its damage function – Mr. Roseen answered yes, incrementally and discussed the
69 economic benefits of flood avoidance.

70
71 Mr. Roseen showed some examples of bioswails and subsurface infiltration. Chair Huber asked about
72 rain gardens which also absorb nitrogen. Mr. Roseen advised many of the treatment options can be
73 part of underground systems paired with roadways, ballfields and parks.

74
75 Mr. Clement asked Mr. Vlasich if the Town was putting any of these in. Mr. Vlasich answered some, not
76 to scale.

77
78 Chair Huber asked if the slides could be available on the website.

79
80 Mr. Raub asked when the water trail signs would be put in. Mr. Roseen advised he was working with the
81 principals at both schools and expected the signs to be ready to go in the Spring. Ms. Raub asked who
82 would take responsibility to role out the project and provide publicity? Mr. Roseen advised that Julie
83 LaBranch with Rockingham Planning would be.

84
85 Chair Huber read out loud a letter he received from Town Manager, Russ Dean who commended the
86 presentation put on at last month's meeting with the Great Bay Water Keeper and provided a link to the
87 Wastewater Treatment Plan with Wright Pierce done in 2015. Mr. Dean noted the concerns of oyster
88 propagation in Great Bay. Chair Huber mentioned that many of the projects and plans were on the
89 Public Works website.

90
91 5. Presentation: on the Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) and an update on the changes in
92 the Exeter River measures since the dam was removed (Kristen Murphy - Natural Resource Planner)

93
94 Ms. Murphy advised there were nine locations in Exeter where samples are collected at bridge locations
95 from May until September and believes the community would benefit from participating in this. Ms.
96 Murphy is willing to set up weekend training dates if the public is interested in participating and can

97 contact her in the Planning Department, kmurphy@exeternh.gov 418-6542 and she will have a sign-up
98 sheet on-line. Ms. Murphy indicated it would take about an hour and a half to two-hour commitment.
99 Training is recommended in April.

100

101 6. Update on proposed river viewing site near String Bridge (Bob Glowacky) - Tabled

102

103 7. Notice of vacancies in the membership of the River Advisory Committee of Exeter 8. Other Business

104

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

106 9. Public Comment/Other Business

107

108 Ms. Raub indicated there is an event on Saturday the 23rd at the Exeter Inn from 10 am to 7 pm which
109 includes the showing of Mr. Glowacky Dam Removal film in addition to others, at no charge.

110

111 Mr. Clement advised he will not be running for reappointment to the Select Board in March. Chair
112 Huber thanked him for all of his years of valuable assistance.

113

114 10. Adjourn the Meeting

115

116 Mr. Clement moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm. Mr. Bourdon seconded the motion, with all in
117 favor, so moved.

118

119 **The Next Meeting of the Exeter River Advisory Committee will be on March 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM.**

120 Chair Huber indicated he will email to see if there is a more suitable time.

121 Adjourn

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

124

125 Respectfully submitted,

126

127

128 Daniel Hoijer,
129 Recording Secretary
130 *Via Exeter TV*