1. Convene the Meeting
Chairman Richard Huber convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. on January 16, 2020. Members present included Chairman Huber, Rod Bourdon, Warren Biggins, PEA, Lionel Ingram, Virginia Raub and Dan Jones. Members absent were Terrie Harman, Kathy Corson and Carl Wikstrom.

2. Minutes from the November 21, 2019 meeting were deferred until after the next item.

3. Update on Various River Related Items (Paul Vlasich)
Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer, addressed the status reports for on-going and future projects:
   a. Great Dam location - monitoring of the Great Dam location, the “2019 Great Dam Annual Monitoring Report (Year 3)” was available at the RAC webpage. The report showed that the river bottom and slopes were stable and met the conditions of the wetlands permit as required by the Wetlands Bureau. Consequently, a request was made to Aquatics Resource Mitigation (ARM,) who provided grant monies for this project, for reconsideration of their required 5-year river monitoring period be reduced to 3 years. The annual cost represented at $9,000 could then be spared.
   b. Annual Total Nitrogen Report - Mr. Vlasich stated that this report related to the new waste-water treatment plant, due to the EPA this month, was being generated through the departments and would be made available on time.
   c. Storm-water Program - Mr. Vlasich said that the annual report – the 2019 Exeter MS4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater System) Annual Stormwater Report was available at the Public Works webpage.
   d. Pickpocket Dam – Since receipt of the Dam Bureau’s “Letter of Deficiency” (LOD,) an emergency action plan was drawn and sits under review by Public Works, the Fire Department and Police Department. Once the plan is solidified, it will be sent to the Dam Bureau addressing these items:
      i. Generate a 2 ½ times 100-year storm event flood analysis – Mr. Vlasich informed that this high-risk dam site [Pickpocket Dam] will likely fail under the ramifications of such an analysis. He said that the next steps necessitated a request for funds to begin a feasibility study (assuming failure) to determine the needed improvements and eliminate the deficiency. Mr. Vlasich stated that the analysis was entered on a Capital Improvement Plan Warrant for consideration this year, but that the
feasibility study was not proposed this year. The question of dam
ownership was resolved that the dam rests halfway between Exeter and
Brentwood; however, Exeter owns the dam.

Further discussion surrounded Mr. Huber’s comment that addressed overall clean-up of
Great Bay: a draft initiative to lower nitrogen levels entering Great Bay seemed to allow
leniency for some communities. The concern was that if the draft initiative became law,
then other towns might forgo improvement to their facilities and instead follow storm-
water run-off management practices. Mr. Vlasich provided statistical requirements for a
pound per day allowance discharge [of nitrogen into Great Bay] for each community.
The allowance offers another way to calculate the amounts from towns with improved
stormwater systems. He presented that, because of its new plant, the Town of Exeter
was well-situated to meet requirements and continues with good adaptive management
practices. But as the community grows, treatment plant improvement will be necessary
to lower nitrogen levels from 5 to 3. Surrounding towns may opt to reduce nitrogen in
the stormwater system, but it is more expensive to follow that practice than to upgrade
their wastewater treatment plant. Chairman Huber summarized by saying that the Town
of Exeter is on the right track to reduce nitrogen as intended but since the intent of the
direct initiative seems unclear, a representative should attend the meeting. The
upcoming public meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020 at Pease International
Trade Port, 222 International Drive, Suite 175 at 6:00 p.m.

Additional discussion surrounded acceptable ways to calculate nitrogen in stormwater
runoff and a review of deadlines to answer the LOD. Mr. Vlasich reported that every
proposed development that goes through the Planning Board is required to have an
analysis calculating negative impact to the environment. Using standard formulas
applied to the square footage of an impervious surface, either a Town Engineer or a
consultant, calculates and quantifies the amounts and quality of the run-off. Regarding
the LOD response to the Dam Bureau, the reports are in progress with one due this
month and another due – a plan to fix the Pickpocket Dam - by June 2022 with an
additional deadline of January 2025 to complete the plan. A feasibility study will not
occur this year. Mr. Vlasich reiterated that while grants can be applied for, there is little
money available to renovate a dam versus money available to assist with the cost for
removal of a dam.

4. Discussion of the December 4th NH Coastal Climate Summit
This item was tabled due to the absence of its two attendees.

5. Discussion of the November 21, 2019 Minutes
Discussion surrounded corrections for typographical or grammatical errors in the text.
Chairman Huber urged Members to continue review of the Minutes for accuracy as they
represent a permanent record. Chairman Huber requested a Motion to Approve the
Minutes. Ms. Raub moved to approve with corrections. Mr. Bourdon seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

6. Other Business
Other discussion involved the potential Sustainability Office, the proposed river-viewing site, the RAC mission and RAC Annual Report. Monies were provided for the Town Planner to act as the goal person for that office, but no action or role was required by them. Therefore, the Committee agreed to continue to support the concept of a Sustainability Office. An update regarding the river-view platform was unavailable. Chairman Huber mentioned his obligation to provide an annual report for the committee which includes the following:

   a. Recounts the charge of the RAC as stated at the website
   b. Notes the action plan for this committee to support, in 5 areas, other committees itemized under the Master Plan (2018)
   c. Lists present committee members notating zero vacancies
   d. Mentions that video recording of all meetings can viewed at Exeterh.tv
   e. Includes a list of all presentations from the past year
   f. Informs of the supporting documents available to be viewed at the Town website

Discussion surrounded the potential to include additional information about nitrogen levels and outcomes that Mr. Huber agreed to consider.

Other discussion instigated by Mr. Jones, who arrived late to the meeting, surrounded a recap of the proposed new EPA guidelines that resonated from an article in Foster’s. In replicated summary, the public meeting to discuss the initiative, scheduled for February 19th at Pease international Trade Port, would provide useful and informative answers. Members were encouraged to attend.

The next meeting was scheduled for the Nowak Room on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn the Meeting
Chairman Huber requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lionel Ingram moved to adjourn, and Virginia Raub seconded the motion. All were in favor and the Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste M. Camire
Recording Secretary
Via Exeter, T.V.