

Town of Exeter, N.H.
River Advisory Committee
Nowak Room
January 16, 2020
Draft Minutes

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8 1. Convene the Meeting

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

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

16 3. Update on Various River Related Items (Paul Vlasich)

17 Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer, addressed the status reports for on-going and future
18 projects:

- 19 a. Great Dam location - monitoring of the Great Dam location, the “2019 Great Dam
20 Annual Monitoring Report (Year 3)” was available at the RAC webpage. The
21 report showed that the river bottom and slopes were stable and met the
22 conditions of the wetlands permit as required by the Wetlands Bureau.
23 Consequently, a request was made to Aquatics Resource Mitigation (ARM,) who
24 provided grant monies for this project, for reconsideration of their required 5-year
25 river monitoring period be reduced to 3 years. The annual cost represented at
26 \$9,000 could then be spared.
- 27 b. Annual Total Nitrogen Report - Mr. Vlasich stated that this report related to the
28 new waste-water treatment plant, due to the EPA this month, was being
29 generated through the departments and would be made available on time.
- 30 c. Storm-water Program - Mr. Vlasich said that the annual report – the 2019 Exeter
31 MS4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater System) Annual Stormwater Report was
32 available at the Public Works webpage.
- 33 d. Pickpocket Dam – Since receipt of the Dam Bureau’s “Letter of Deficiency”
34 (LOD,) an emergency action plan was drawn and sits under review by Public
35 Works, the Fire Department and Police Department. Once the plan is solidified, it
36 will be sent to the Dam Bureau addressing these items:
- 37 i. Generate a 2 ½ times 100-year storm event flood analysis – Mr. Vlasich
38 informed that this high-risk dam site [Pickpocket Dam] will likely fail under
39 the ramifications of such an analysis. He said that the next steps
40 necessitated a request for funds to begin a feasibility study (assuming
41 failure) to determine the needed improvements and eliminate the
42 deficiency. Mr. Vlasich stated that the analysis was entered on a Capital
43 Improvement Plan Warrant for consideration this year, but that the

44 feasibility study was not proposed this year. The question of dam
45 ownership was resolved that the dam rests halfway between Exeter and
46 Brentwood; however, Exeter owns the dam.

47
48 Further discussion surrounded Mr. Huber's comment that addressed overall clean-up of
49 Great Bay: a draft initiative to lower nitrogen levels entering Great Bay seemed to allow
50 leniency for some communities. The concern was that if the draft initiative became law,
51 then other towns might forgo improvement to their facilities and instead follow storm-
52 water run-off management practices. Mr. Vlasich provided statistical requirements for a
53 pound per day allowance discharge [of nitrogen into Great Bay] for each community.
54 The allowance offers another way to calculate the amounts from towns with improved
55 stormwater systems. He presented that, because of its new plant, the Town of Exeter
56 was well-situated to meet requirements and continues with good adaptive management
57 practices. But as the community grows, treatment plant improvement will be necessary
58 to lower nitrogen levels from 5 to 3. Surrounding towns may opt to reduce nitrogen in
59 the stormwater system, but it is more expensive to follow that practice than to upgrade
60 their wastewater treatment plant. Chairman Huber summarized by saying that the Town
61 of Exeter is on the right track to reduce nitrogen as intended but since the intent of the
62 direct initiative seems unclear, a representative should attend the meeting. The
63 upcoming public meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020 at Pease International
64 Trade Port, 222 International Drive, Suite 175 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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82 5. Discussion of the November 21, 2019 Minutes
83 Discussion surrounded corrections for typographical or grammatical errors in the text.
84 Chairman Huber urged Members to continue review of the Minutes for accuracy as they
85 represent a permanent record. Chairman Huber requested a Motion to Approve the

86 Minutes. Ms. Raub moved to approve with corrections. Mr. Bourdon seconded the
87 motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

88

89 6. Other Business

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

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

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

106

107 Other discussion instigated by Mr. Jones, who arrived late to the meeting, surrounded a
108 recap of the proposed new EPA guidelines that resonated from an article in Foster's. In
109 replicated summary, the public meeting to discuss the initiative, scheduled for February
110 19th at Pease international Trade Port, would provide useful and informative answers.
111 Members were encouraged to attend.

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

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116 7. Adjourn the Meeting

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

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123 Respectfully submitted,

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126

127 *Celeste M. Camire*

128 Recording Secretary

129 Via Exeter, T.V.