

River Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 19, 2020  
3 PM  
Remotely via Zoom  
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Richard Huber (Chair), Lionel Ingram, Dan Jones, Terrie Harman, Carl Wikstrom, Water/Sewer Rep; Ginny Raub, Conservation Commission Rep. and Warren Biggins, PEA Rep. Don Clement was also present.

Members Absent: Rod Bourdon; Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Rep; and Paul Vlasich, the Town Engineer.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Huber at 3 PM.

Mr. Huber read a statement:

As Chair of the River Advisory Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2III(b). Federal State and Local Officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community and its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurrence with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of Town Government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location. At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner in unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum will apply.

Mr. Huber started the meeting by taking a roll call attendance.

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. There were no minutes approved at this meeting. Mr. Huber said not having the minutes in a timely way is an issue for the Right to Know laws.

2. Update on River Issues

Mr. Huber read a statement from Paul Vlasich, who was not present. Management still has a hold on the funding approved in last year's CIP for Pickpocket Dam, so he [Mr. Vlasich] can't move forward with a consultant contract. The current CIP request is \$300,000, which will take them through a feasibility study. This can be completed in 2021, and will give the town enough time to act on the Letter of Deficiency in the timeline of June 2022.

Mr. Clement said the Budget Committee went over the CIP and Pickpocket Dam was discussed at great length, but their recommendation was to create a Capital Reserve Fund for the Pickpocket Dam study and place the \$90,000 from last year and another \$400,000 this year in that fund. This can be

put toward any legal issues that may arise. If there is money left over, there could be a low-level feasibility study in 2021, with a scope of one or two alternatives rather than many alternatives. Now that the Budget Recommendations Committee has finished their process, the request will go to the Select Board and there will be a public hearing.

3. Other Business

- a. Mr. Huber attended a climate forum where they addressed six different climate research issues that Exeter has been involved with. He was impressed by the town's involvement. Ms. Raub attended as well.
- b. The Committee discussed the issue of the minutes further. Mr. Huber said he has raised it with the Select Board.

4. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

5. Review Committee Calendar

- a. Mr. Huber proposed that the next meeting be either December 17th or in January; he will update the group via email prior to 12/17. Mr. Clement suggested that waiting until January will give the Select Board time to review the CIP so the Committee can discuss it further. Mr. Huber agreed to delay the next meeting until January 21.

6. Adjournment

**Mr. Ingram moved to adjourn. Ms. Raub seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary