

River Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 16, 2021  
3 PM  
Town Offices, Nowak Room  
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Richard Huber (Chair); Lionel Ingram; Carl Wikstrom; Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Rep; and Warren Biggins, PEA Rep. Paul Vlasich, the Town Engineer, was also present.

Members Absent: Dan Jones, Terrie Harman, Rod Bourdon

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Huber at 3:07 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes

a. July 15, 2021

**MOTION:** Mr. Ingram moved to accept the minutes of July 15, 2021 as presented. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0.

2. Update on River Issues - Paul Vlasich

Mr. Vlasich said we now have a response from the State to our request for an extension of the timelines on the Letter of Deficiency. The deadline for the application for reconstruction for the dam went from June 1 2022 to June 1 2024, and the deadline for implementing the chosen fix went from Dec 1 2025 to Dec 1 2027.

Exeter is #3 on the list for the SRF [State Revolving Fund] on clean water in the stormwater planning section. This would be used for the Pickpocket Dam Feasibility Analysis. We applied for \$350,000, of which \$75,000 would be principal forgiveness. We don't have to take the full loan amount. We will find out the results of the application in the next month or two as the SRF program unfolds.

We applied for a Coastal Resilience Grant for \$40,000, and were chosen to receive that grant. The max amount of the grant was \$40,000, with a \$20,000 match, for a total of \$60,000 for the project. We still have to find out the intent of some of the NOAA comments on the application. The money would become available around January of next year. We also have to finalize the contract. Mr. Huber asked how much of that was determined by the letter he wrote, and Mr. Vlasich said his letter was very important to the application.

Mr. Wikstrom asked if there had been any progress made on the siphons or the dam, besides the dam extensions. Mr. Vlasich said the details on the Pickpocket Dam won't be in place until next year. We did a flow analysis on the river at the 2.5x the 100 year storm event and came up with a couple of scenarios of what the river height would look like, in order to make progress with the project we could show in the extension application. Regarding the siphons, that project is going through the permitting process. When we get the permits, the timing of the project may be around March so we could go

to town voting to get the money needed. We'll get about \$600,000 but we're still about 1/3 short. It could come from Capital Reserve monies or it may line up for a town vote. The project is moving forward with two new siphons, and we have a contingency plan in case something drastic happens before the work can be done.

3. Review Committee Calendar

Mr. Huber asked if they need a meeting in one or two months, and Mr. Vlasich said probably two months. Mr. Huber said that would be November 18. Mr. Ingram asked if there's anything else arising that might be of interest to the Committee. Mr. Huber mentioned the Alewife Festival planning, but that's independent of this.

**MOTION:** Mr. Ingram moved to have the next meeting two months out, on November 18th. Mr. Wikstrom seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0.

4. Other Business

a. Alewife Festival

Mr. Huber said the Alewife Festival will be two events, one in mid-May on a fixed date, and one in April to coincide with the Alewife run. He listed some of the proposed features: a "predict the Alewife run" contest, pop-up Alewife-run-based event, a workshop, a Squamscott paddle, a beer tent, acoustic music, art and crafts, kids chalk drawings, the design of an Alewife mascot, a list of participating businesses, a map of the water trail, a discussion of the fish ladder, an environmental fair to talk about river health and water quality, a possible rain barrel raffle, plastic-free and other sustainable initiatives, electric vehicles, a discussion of native plants, sea level rise maps, etc.

Mr. Wikstrom asked if there was still a fish ladder in Exeter. Mr. Huber said there is one at Pickpocket Dam.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary