

River Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, August 17, 2023  
3 PM  
Town Offices, Nowak Room  
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Richard Huber (Chair), Lionel Ingram, Dan Jones, Rod Bourdon, and PEA Rep Warren Biggins were present at this meeting. Paul Vlasich, the Town Engineer, and Kristin Murphy, the Town Natural Resources and Sustainability Planner, were also present.

Members Absent: Carl Wikstrom, Terrie Harman, Niko Papkonstantis, Select Board Rep, and Trevor Mattera, Conservation Commission Rep.

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

1. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** Mr. Huber moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2023 as presented. Mr. Ingram seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Update on River Issues

Mr. Vlasich said there's not much to talk about on Pickpocket Dam. We turned our final report in for the Coastal Resilience Grant of \$40,000. Jacob San Antonio was here for a presentation of their findings. There is also a Stormwater Planning Grant of \$100,000. Sometime in October would be a good time for an update. Due to his [Mr. Vlasich's] availability, it would have to be the 1st Thursday of October or the 1st Thursday in November. A draft of the final report would be due in January.

Mr. Vlasich said there was a PREP presentation last month, which was televised.

Mr. Huber asked how the rainwater and flooding had affected the town. Mr. Vlasich said we're not dealing with a drought situation. The groundwater supplies are pretty good right now. We had the construction project for the siphons, and during one of the high tides there was water in the roadway that entered the catchbasins, but that went away when the water lowered. Ms. Murphy said this has been the wettest summer on record. We had some small breaches on construction sites, but not major flooding events.

Mr. Jones asked how the sewer siphons vote came out. Mr. Huber said according to the newspaper, 363 people voted, and 92% of them voted yes. That will allow the siphon project to proceed. If nothing goes wrong, we could have it completed by spring. Mr. Vlasich said the residents voted for the project at \$3.5M. The paperwork for an amendment to the State Revolving Clean Water Fund is in process. We have to do a change order with the consultant for the project. The pipe was pulled through successfully on Tuesday, so we now have one 12" barrel under the river. It passed its tests today. Clean up is happening now. We anticipate the contractor coming back in November to start drilling for the second pipe. That will take a couple of months. An inlet

and outlet structure and an additional sewer pipe will be needed to make it work. After that, they'll clean up in the spring. Mr. Huber asked if weather would affect that process. Mr. Vlasich said they may have to stop for a few days but for the most part they can proceed despite the weather.

Mr. Huber asked the Committee members to think about what the Committee should be addressing in the future.

3. Other Business

- a. There was no other business discussed at this meeting.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary