Draft Minutes

River Study Committee

September 3, 2015

1. Convene the Meeting

Chairman Lionel Ingram called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were Rod Bourdon, Frank Ferraro, Roger Wakeman, Virginia Raub, Richard Huber, and Peter Richardson. Also in attendance was Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer and Selectman Don Clement.

2. Minutes of the July Meeting

Mr. Ferraro had an amendment to page 2, first sentence, under "Grants", adding "and out Congressional delegation" after "Governor Hassan".

Mr. Vlasich had an amendment to page 2, changing "Army Core" to "Army Corp".

A Motion was made by Mr. Ferraro and seconded by Ms. Raub to approve the minutes of the July River Study Committee meeting, as amended. Motion carried – all in favor.

3. Report on the Status of Dam Removal (Paul Vlasich)

Mr. Vlasich said he would first be talking about permitting and design.

Permitting and Design

Mr. Vlasich said the wetlands permit was applied for on May 28. After applying, they sent in a reply with design concepts. Part of that said they would be updating the design. He gave the Committee a map showing the grading on the river. It takes the previous plan and moves it around further. He said his team thought this was the best situation. It adds some pools and rock clusters. It shows the progression of the plan. They still need a couple abutter permissions for the wetlands permit, but they are working through those issues. The first issue with this is the retaining wall. He said they are looking to prequalify contractors for after the design goes through.

The town also needs to send Fish & Game a letter about removing the fish ladder. Mr. Ingram asked what the letter would consist of. Mr. Vlasich said Fish & Game own the fish ladder and the town needs to ask permission to remove it.

Mr. Ferraro asked fi the intent of the rock wall was to pool water and create somewhat of a dam. Mr. Vlasich said it is to scow the river. It would eliminate head cuts. Mr. Ferraro asked how tall it would be. Mr. Vlasich said a foot or two off the river bottom at the center line. Mr. Ferraro asked if the three examples of rock armored bank are in the specific locations. Mr. Vlasich said yes, those are specific locations. Mr. Ferraro asked if it is possible to remove

heavy overgrowth along the river bank. Mr. Clement said DES is reluctant to have trees removed. Trimming might be allowed but DES has rules and regulations pertaining to this.

Mr. Vlasich talked about the 106 process. He said there is a tentative agreement through Army Corp and DHR and Mr. Dean is having legal counsel take a look at the MOA. After that review, Army Corp will send it to NHDHR. Right now, Mr. Dean is the one authorized from the municipal government to sign it. Mr. Clement said it should be the Board of Selectmen who signs as the governing body. He would like to follow-up with that. Mr. Vlasich said the bulk of the work has been done with the remembrance committee.

Mill Agreement

Mr. Vlasich said it has been signed with all the appropriate signatures. He had a set of plans emailed to him that morning. The town agreement says their retrofitting amount for the condenser units is $437,500. It is in the warrant for $542,000.

Grants

On July 2, the town put in for a NOAA grant. It is a 2-1 match. Mr. Vlasich has a conference call with them on Wednesday. The town is still in the running.

Mr. Wakeman said at the last meeting they talked about public communication about the schedule. He asked if July is still the start date. Mr. Vlasich said July is probably when they are going to start. They are assuming July. They would have to have contracts in order well before that date.

Mr. Huber asked Mr. Vlasich if he thinks the plan will meet the needs of all the fish species. Mr. Vlasich said there is a whole report to go along with that.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Adjourn the Meeting

The next River Study Committee will be on Thursday November 5, 2015 at 9 am.

Chair Ingram adjourned the meeting at 9:32am.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole Piper,
Recording Secretary