

## EXETER RIVER STUDY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 18, 2011

### 1. Convene Meeting:

Chairman Lionel Ingram, Don Clement-Selectmen Rep., Rod Bourdon, Paul Vlasich-Town Engineer, Mimi Becker, Ginny Raub, and Kristen Murphy-Planning Department were all in attendance. Deb Loiselle was absent. Lionel convened the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

### 2. Approve minutes of 5/26/11:

There was a motion made to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2011 as amended by Mimi Becker; seconded by Ginny Raub. The amended minutes are

as follows in agenda item #4 the last paragraph. Kristen and Ginny Raub both replied no should read "*Kristen and Ginny Raub both replied yes. You will find reference in the Exeter Master Plan Recommendations Chapter 4 #10; The Town should study impacts in management and operations of the dams regarding land and water uses, flood control, water quality, environmental habitat, public safety and recreation.*"

### 3. Status of the Feasibility Study – Paul Vlasich:

Paul Vlasich passed out a status report from VHB which provides a brief update on their team's work on the Great Dam Study. The report is listed by tasks according to the RFP and proposal. Collection of the available data is almost complete. Paul went on to say there are currently surveyors out at the dam and are putting together the base plans for the project. One of the most important tasks as far as time line goes is the development of the quality assurance plan for the sediment sampling. That has gone through several rounds of review with some of the players in the group and it is now up at NH DES for review. Hydrology and hydraulics have also started, there has been some review of where they might have to collect some additional data, Also, Paul asked if Kristen Murphy could get the HEC-RAS model on the Linden Commons subdivision so that could be given to VHB. Kristen replied yes.

VHB has started on cultural resource information. They are waiting for the Town and NHDES to put together the RPR form. When Phyllis Duffy gets back they will get in touch with Deb Loiselle and get that moving again.

Lionel Ingram asked where the committee stands on the effort to get an addition \$16,000.00. Paul replied no activity has been done. Lionel asked if there was anything the committee should do. Paul said he was open to suggestion. Ginny Raub asked when the funds would be needed. Paul replied there is a chance that the bulk of the \$16,000 won't be needed and it deals with additional tests that has to be done on sediment samples. If it comes back that we do need additional sediment sampling that will probably be happening later on this year before freeze up time.

Ginny Raub asked about the renditions. Paul replied those can wait until the very end. Adding those would be very helpful for the residents to visually see what the dam removal would mean. The breakdown of the additional \$16,000 needed would be \$10,000 for the additional sediment sampling and \$6,000 for the renditions. Lionel asked for the committee members to continue to look for possible funding sources.

Don Clement asked where the sediment sampling would take place. Paul stated after the last meeting with VHB they would fine tuning the location. Don asked how far upstream from the dam they plan on going. Mimi Becker replied according to the August 16, 2011 Quality Assurance Plan, one downstream of the dam; one immediately upstream of the dam; one in the upper impoundment of the old Town landfill; one in the lower ripple area, they are going to push it upstream as much as they can to find the ripple area; one 50-100 feet of the Town's water intake; and one in the impounding portion of the lower river. Mimi stated they will have VHB mark the areas on a map for more visual effects.

#### **4. Preparation for the Public Meeting (Mimi Becker):**

Lionel Ingram asked Mimi Becker to update the committee on the first public meeting with VHB on September 14, 2011 at the Exeter Town Hall from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. The meeting will be organized and run by the River Study Committee (RSC) with Mimi being the chief facilitator. Lionel explained how the meeting will transpire:

- Lionel will introduce the meeting with very few comments.
- Lionel will introduce Paul Vlasich and Mimi Becker and their importance to the Town and the running of the meeting.
- Lionel will make it clear to the public it is a Town run activity not a State run activity.
- Paul will introduce the VHB staff who will be the primary meat of the meeting.
- Once the players are introduced Mimi will explain the rules for engagement.
- VHB will provide a brief PowerPoint presentation that will walk people through what they will be doing in terms of conducting the study.
- Once VHB's presentation is complete the subcommittee will facilitate the people into small groups in order for them to provide information, talk, ask questions and request information, as has been done in other public meetings.
- They will then have some breakout sessions where people can go and learn more about the different components of the study and also provide specific information. Those breakout sessions will be facilitated by a member of the Working Group and staffed by a grad student who will be responsible for taking notes. VHB will have some resource people who will be dealing with that component of the study in each of those groups.
- Then everyone will be pulled back together for about a half hour where people's concerns can be reported out on any additional questions, concerns and answers that come up and want clarification.
- The results of the meeting will be used by VHB. Also, a summary of the meeting will be put on the Town's website.

Lionel stated there are two aspects; 1) it must be clear that these series of meetings are about VHB's part of the overall study of the potential of dam removal; 2) the issues of the Town's ability to supply water; provide fire suppression; and the ability to meet the requirements of the users of the river *are not the focus of this study*. All of these are being worked on at some other venue and need to come together for the public *at a later date*. These are not the subject of the meeting *but what VHB is doing*.

Mimi stated the Working Group will be meeting on August 19, 2011 *to develop final agenda* with an objective of familiarizing the public with the context, the work plan and the schedule for the dam feasibility and impact study for dam removal. The Working Group is also after soliciting the public's help in identifying any resources or issues and questions they may still have that they feel are critical.

Don Clement *mentioned asked* to have the meeting at least recorded for future viewing on public TV. Mimi stated that a poster is being done to announce the meeting as well as a press release. The press release will go through the normal chain of command before getting sent to the newspaper for release. Don also mentioned contacting the local radio station to do a 2-minute spot. Lionel asked if there was a list of attendees from the previous meeting. Mimi replied yes. Lionel suggested contacting them directly since they are interested. Mimi also suggested sending out an email to other organizations that the committee knows would have interest. Mimi will look into the different media aspects.

#### **5. The Town Master Plan and the River Committee (Lionel Ingram & Kristen Murphy):**

Lionel Ingram opened by stating the purpose of this agenda item is to talk about where the committee wants to go with the Town's master plan and how the RSC can facilitate things. Lionel asked the committee members if they had a chance to review the Town's master plan that Kristen Murphy passed out at the August meeting and if anything popped up that the RSC should be actively involved in besides Chapter 4 Item 10.

Mimi Becker mentioned there is a real need for communication and coordination between the planning functions; with the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee, anything dealing with the river which would be water and access, and the Conservation Commission. In order to implement things that are still not implemented in the master plan communication and coordination is critical so that those entities that would **have** primary responsibility for moving forward and have an opportunity to put that on their agenda. Mimi asked Kristen how that is handled now. Kristen replied there is currently a lot of cross over between the different committees and membership among them. The foundation for that is there.

Lionel Ingram asked Kristen; with the CIP underway, how closely do they look at the master plan in that process? Kristen replied you are required to identify if your project is in the master plan and they would need to describe how it ties in. Kristen stated that Sylvia van Aulock, Town Planner, sends out the master plan for comments and status to be updated annually. The departments and department heads make their comments and send them back to Sylvia to be updated. Lionel asked if the RSC could be added to the yearly email list. Kristen replied yes. Lionel asked when it formally comes up for review. Kristen replied in the spring. Kristen added that you don't need to wait until then if there are areas that the RSC knows of progress being made let her know and she will update them.

Mimi pointed out one area where it would be helpful is to have some members of the Zoning Board at the briefing meeting because all of the non point source inputs to the river. These could be addressed through zoning regulations and which are currently not adequately covered or enforced. They are things that would buy us gaps of water quality performance measures that will impact what needs to be done at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mimi stated all these things are managed in this state through zoning regulations and getting people educated and changing certain behaviors. Kristen's recommendation in regards to the process on how zoning ordinances are adjusted is; there's a zoning ordinance review committee and because the water quality issues are so huge there is representation from ERLAC there and Peter Richardson, who wears multiple hats. Kristen stated the revisions are all about who has the ability to focus their time and energy on doing the research and drafting the regulation revisions. Kristen stated it takes a tremendous amount of time and energy.

Kristen suggested having a member of RSC on the zoning committee. Lionel doesn't feel the need for that; he feels the feedback is already happening. Mimi feels having a member there; reviewing the changes and providing feedback to the RSC and reporting on issues that are relevant would be an advantage towards what is going on. The RSC would be better informed and the perspective would be integrated. Mimi suggested inviting a member from various committees come and update the RSC on what is happening on issues that are relevant to RSC, possibly putting that on some of the upcoming agendas. Lionel would like to go the route of if someone on the RSC knows of a subject that committee should be updated on he will put it on the agenda, keeping it a more structured process. Lionel stated maybe it would be a good idea to have someone come and talk about non point sources.

Lionel asked the committee to take another look at the master plan items that are marked RSC and these will be revisited at the next meeting.

## **6. Other Business:**

Lionel asked all the committee members to come to and get the word out on the upcoming public meeting September 14, 2011.

Paul Vlasich suggested that DPW come and talk to the committee about the Storm Water regulations coming down the road. It could be a 15-20 minute discussion on the Storm Water Program.

## **7. Public Comment:**

None

**8. Adjourn the Meeting:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next meeting was set for Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Rogers  
Public Works Office Manager