

1. **Convene Meeting:** The meeting convened at 9:01 am in the Nowak Room of the Exeter town Offices. Members Present: Rod Bourdon, Roger Wakeman, Frank Patterson, Dr. Mimi Larsen Becker, Virginia Raub, Richard Huber, Peter Richardson and Lionel Ingram (Chair). In Attendance: Sally Soule (DES), Eric Hutchins (NOAA), Paul Vlasich (DPW Rep) and Paul Kirshen (Climate Adaptation Plan Exeter)
2. **Minutes of May 15, 2014 and June 26, 2014:** *Mr. Bourdon moved to pass the minutes from May 15, 2014, second by Ms. Raub. VOTE: Unanimous*

Dr. Becker moved to pass the minutes from June 26, 2014 with corrections second by Mr. Richardson. VOTE: Unanimous

3. Mr. Vlasich gave his update on the Dam's removal and River Restoration. He reported the water intake discussion will have results in the coming weeks. Mr. Vlasich said that Ms. Soule passed in the EPA 319 grant. Mr. Richardson asked if the String Bridge RFQ was being completed with the dam removal. Mr. Vlasich responded it depends on consultant qualifications.

Ms. Raub suggested a walk way up near the dam to be used as an overlook of the dam. Mr. Hutchins noted that the Town can make the historical mitigation as elaborate or as minimal as they would like. The 106 process could go towards both projects.

Mr. Hutchins also noted that NOAA will stay the lead agency for the dam removal project. The MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) will be between the State Historical Preservation Officer and NOAA. In a June 18th letter to the Division of Historical Resources that outlined the plan and the timeline, the promotion plan and process for implementation was drafted by VHB. Mr. Hutchins said he will share the response from DHR with the Town. Mr. Hutchins noted another letter sent to the Advisory Council for Historical Preservation about the project. There is a 30 day response period for the Letter to DHR back to NOAA. Mr. Hutchins also explained the 106 Process for the project. He said there will be a consultation process, time for public opinion and interested parties to have a say, some kind of signage/brass plaque, a study of history of the project called an Archaeological Engineering Record and interpretive signs developed by a qualified historian.

Mr. Ingram asked how the River Study Committee was involved with the MOA. Mr. Hutchins responded the MOA is between NOAA and the State. Mr. Hutchins said the Committee's involvement is an open process.

Dr. Becker noted the Committee's responsibility to advertise learning about the history if the public is interested.

Mr. Hutchins commended the Committee on their outreach to the public and the opportunity to comment to the Department of Public Works about historical archaeological impacts. He said the Historical Society, Historical District Committee, Heritage Commission, and River Committee should all work together.

Public Comment: Ms. Julie Gilman of Exeter commented on how the letters to DHR have not circulated to the appropriate groups. She suggested the Board of Selectmen to have a meeting about the letters about the 106 process.

Mr. Ingram inquired how the River Study Committee should work with others about the MOA and Archeological study. He said the BOS should have the lead to organize the 106 process and pass out information and let the BOS determine how to go ahead with the 106 process.

Ms. Gilman recommended to open the BOS meeting to the public for a large meeting.

Dr. Becker emphasized that the Committee is not part of the process but the Town is.

Mr. Ingram asked Mr. Clement to figure out how to present these ideas to the BOS about the 106 process.

Dr. Becker moved to make the River Study Committee a consultant party to the 106 process, second by Mr. Clement. VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Huber asked about the letter owed to DES with an update on the dam removal plans. Mr. Vlasich said it was on the to-do list.

Mr. Kirshen gave his update for the CAPE study. Mr. Kirshen said the study is looking at what the impacts of climate change will do the water resources of Exeter's ecosystems, storm water, and water quality. The study's group is working with citizens to find the indicators of the impacts to natural resources, infrastructure, and people. CAPE has created models to translate the impacts of climate change to indicate values. Mr. Kirshen said the study should be completed in the fall of 2014.

Dr. Becker asked Mr. Kirshen to talk to the citizens working group on the progress of the study as some members of the group were inquiring about the study's findings.

Mr. Clement asked about the flood insurance maps and how the study's finding differ between FEMA's flood maps. Mr. Kirshen said he thought they did not have access to FEMA's maps. Mr. Clement said the planning department has digital versions. Mr. Kirshen said when they get those maps they can compare between their findings and FEMA's.

Dr. Becker said the dates for FEMA's data were old and the feasibility study adapted the 100 year flood for the 50 year flood scenario.

Mr. Hutchins said the new flood lines will have to be shown in a Letter of Map Revision. Mr. Wakeman asked what the process was for revision. Mr. Hutchins responded the town has to change their maps and what goes into the model should meet FEMA's standards.

Mr. Ingram asked if the Letter of Map Revision was part of the contract. Mr. Vlasich said it is not in the proposed figures but for after the project is completed.

Public Comment: Mr. Dan Kelly of Exeter was concerned if the dam was removed what remains of the sides of the river. He asked if the Town could draw down the river to show what the river will look like when the dam is removed.

Mr. Vlasich said upriver are the areas of concern for erosion. It still remains to be seen how exactly the river will respond. Mr. Kelly responded that erosion has already occurred and reiterated a draw down will give a clear pictures of the impacts of the dam removal. He asked if homeowners are able to restore the riverbanks.

Mr. Clement said it was not the right time of year to open the dam gates because it was a Fish and Game requirement for the fish living in the river. The feasibility study done by the River Study Committee shows the bathymetry of the river.

Dr. Becker said that mitigation for erosion is generic for some areas and more specific for others in the study. She said there will be a period of time when the River will look its worst. Homeowners will have to be educated on the right type of seeding to vegetate the banks.

Mr. Clement said there was an informed public process to reach the decision to take the dam down or repair it. The decision came down to cost, flooding, water quality and climate change which all can be found in the study.

Mr. Ingram commented that it depends on what happens up and down the river to reduce impacts.

NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2014

The meeting ended at 10:28 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah McGraw