



## 53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021  
7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**Present:** David Martin, Peter Hocknell, Lou York, Bill Klauer, Bill Alesbury, Ilana Liebert, Stephanie Krantz, Andy Magee (project manager).

**Absent:** Don Boyle.

### 1. Opening

David Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via a virtual meeting with no committee members in physical attendance and broadcasted via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

### 2. Regular Business

- A. A quorum is present.
- B. Andy Magee introduction – town has hired Andy as the project manager for this dam removal project.
- C. Citizens' Concerns – none.
- D. Andy Magee was hired by the Town of Acton last Monday (September 13). Andy's role will be to serve as a central source between the various interest groups in the town and the dam removal engineers. The goal here will be to bring all needs together into a coherent story. He presented a graphic concept from the project engineer (dated September 14) with certain historic features that interested groups wish to retain. This was from the 60% design and Andy hopes to push the engineering design team to "give us what we can do" in order to preserve features. The raceway may be preserved in such a way as to provide "burial with protection".
  - a. Lou's question – Did Jim Murac run HECRAS modeling for the revised plan, given the proposed modifications from the Acton Historic Commission (AHC)? Andy to look into this. Certain features from the dam that are to be kept will need to be armored or anchored. Walls parallel to the flow of water can stand; others to be replaced with riprap. Can bury or add riprap to preserve historic features in certain instances.



- b. Stephanie's question – wants to ensure that any modifications by AHC to the design will fall in line with Jim Murac's original design in order to prevent flooding. Andy has asked the engineers "is this what you can do safely". Jim was clear that this is a safe design. David pointed out that the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) has ordered dam removal or at minimum a sufficient breach.
- c. Lou asked about Feature B from the graphic; the parallel piece is in the flood zone but not in the stream itself.
- d. Lou asked whether the 60% design has been submitted for approval. Andy indicated it has not yet. Will need 100% design for the Army Corps of Engineers. Lou wishes for committee to see design once available.

E. The dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) was reviewed by David. He determined that the plan was followed with one exception – the EAP instructions to alert radio and TV at the "watch" level was not followed. It was suggested that alerting at the "warning level" might be more appropriate (can amend the EAP). One mistake was noted; it was not clear in the message communicated by police and others that the stage was at watch level and not warning levels. All other aspects were followed.

F. Significant debris is present in front of the dam. The engineering firm has to confirm to the ODS that the dam is stable. One concern is if the debris shifts and then blocks culverts, water could back up faster. Debris will be removed sometime this fall by the Town.

- a. Ilana asked regarding costs needed for this. Town Manager will be covering these.

G. Before Town Meeting, the town received a partial grant from ODS to finish design. \$250K was requested, we received less than that. But it is sufficient to cover remaining design costs.

H. Town is slated to receive ~\$7M for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). 43 proposals up for consideration. 1 proposal is for matching funds for Dam+Seawall Grant to cover construction. Can send email to Select Board to endorse support for this \$600K. A survey is also available online as well.

I. Approval of the minutes from the 10 August 2021 committee meeting: Motion to accept with one correction made by Bill Alesbury and seconded by Lou York. Voting took place via role call:  
Peter Hocknell – Aye  
David Martin – Aye  
Lou York – Aye  
Bill Klauer – Abstained  
Bill Alesbury – Aye  
Ilana Liebert – Aye  
Stephanie Krantz – Aye



J. This committee's next meeting will take place virtually on 19 OCT 2021 at 7 pm.

K. Motion to adjourn was made at 7:57 by Lou York and seconded by Stephanie Krantz. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye  
Lou York – Aye  
Bill Klauer – Aye  
Bill Alesbury – Aye  
David Martin – Aye  
Ilana Liebert – Aye  
Stephanie Krantz – Aye

**Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:**

- Meeting Agenda for September 21, 2021
- Draft minutes from the August 10, 2021 committee meeting
- Graphic from 60% design plan reflecting “historic site features to remain”