



## 53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 2, 2021  
7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

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

**Absent:** None.

### 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. David attended the 26 October 2021 HDC meeting to present a request for permission to demolish the 2 twentieth-century buildings onsite. These are the machine shop and coal shed/salt shed. Permission was granted by the HDC to remove the 2 buildings under the following conditions: 1) if the shed contains timbers dating from the early mill days, we should consider utilizing them in the park design and 2) if there are granite blocks discovered as part of the foundation, we should consider using them in the park design. Removal of the 2 buildings will not include removal of the slab underneath either the machine shop or the shed. No excavation is to be performed. Removal will likely take place with an external contractor (rather than by the Town); timing for the removal is unclear. Regarding the debris piles present, Andy indicated that these can be removed without approval of the Conservation Commission, since this pertains to repairing drainage. Lou pointed out that while David was presenting to HDC, no committee members were consulted on the presentation. It was also revealed that there is a working group for the 53 River Street project with Town Manager. This group is tasked with handling day to day details, while our committee is tasked to advise the Select Board. When this committee may be disbanded was discussed; some indicated they are concerned primarily with the dam safety, others wish to see the committee continue through the park design phase.
- C. Citizens' Concerns – none.



D. Andy Magee presentation: Focusing on the dam's historic, archeologic components. Wants to get to the point that the hydrology and stabilization of the site are addressed. The "53 River Street / Shoddy Mill Site Historic Area" is delineated as MHC #ACT.R. Key components include the Shoddy Mill pond, dam, tail race, stone piers, stone retaining walls, wheel house foundation, and the engine house chimney base. In order to meet the ODS dam safety standard, we will need to remove most of the dam (abutments on either end can be kept). The middle section of the dam referred to as the "T" cannot be preserved. Models were considered where 1/3 and 2/3 of the "T" were removed; neither met the ODS safety standard. The engineer suggested using the blocks to line a continuous path across the stream (not impeding the stream flow) indicating the original line of the dam using ground level masonry. Whether this approach can be implemented will not be known until the time of excavation. The tail race is likely to be filled in, as it is in disrepair. Engineers suggested not just backfilling, but lining the existing channel with geotechnical fabric and then fill would be brought in, thus preserving the existing stone and structure in place should future excavation and study be desired. Native species will be planted in the race bed. The stone piers in the stream will remain in place. Stone retaining walls along the brook channel will remain unchanged. The wheel house foundation will not be altered. Engine house chimney base future is to be determined. Historians have stated that it is unsalvageable, but that has not been fully determined. Lou indicated concern about debris building up by the piers in the future. Andy suggested that a "Friends of the Shoddy Mill" volunteer group of stewards could be formed to help address this. Andy now wants to take this modified design concept to the AHC and HDC. David suggested we put this to a vote. Motion to have Andy bring this design to the AHC and HDC was made by Don Boyle and seconded by Lou York. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye

David Martin – Aye

Lou York – Aye

Bill Klauer – Abstained (sits on AHC)

Bill Alesbury – Aye

Ilana Liebert – Aye

Stephanie Krantz – Aye

Don Boyle – Aye

E. How to move forward with the park design. 2 proposals brought to Andy; Dennis Dale and SLR (engineering firm). Since so much of the park design is associated with the engineering, Andy is considering using SLR's planning group in order to maximize efficiency. David raised 2 points: 1) fear we get dam breaching done and then park would be separate. Having single company perform both aspects likely effort and cost efficient. 2) Engineering company has already come up with ideas since they remove dams; this experience could prove relevant to this project. Bill Alesbury indicated dam safety is critical here; where is the funding coming from to pay for dam removal and public safety, and then park for benefit of the community on the other hand? Park design



to incorporate boardwalk features, etc.? David indicated that with regards to CPA funding, historic preservation can be separated from recreation but must be distinctly accounted for. It is difficult to fund recreation from one funding chunk. Andy clarified the engineering concepts are not simple here; will need engineering to perform integral aspects of the park design. Both Dennis Dale's & SLR's first step will be to hold public meeting seeking comments for the park vision. The engineering aspects (dam removal, filling in tail race, etc.) can be tied into the park. Remove earth once and not twice. But the fine tuning of the park plan implementation can occur later. David asked the members for their current preference (Dale, SLR, indifferent) just to gauge the room.

F. Approval of the minutes from the 21 September 2021 committee meeting: Motion to accept with one typo correction made by Bill Alesbury and seconded by Bill Klauer. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye  
David Martin – Aye  
Lou York – Aye  
Bill Klauer – Aye  
Bill Alesbury – Aye  
Ilana Liebert – Aye  
Stephanie Krantz – Aye  
Don Boyle – left the meeting prior to voting

G. This committee's next meeting is currently scheduled to take place virtually on 21 DEC 2021 at 7 pm.

H. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:54 by Lou York and seconded by Bill Klauer. 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  
Don Boyle – left the meeting prior to voting

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

- Meeting Agenda for November 2, 2021
- Draft minutes from the September 21, 2021 committee meeting
- Andy Magee slide presentation