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**Environmental Review Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

*Thursday June 10, 2021, 2:00 p.m.*

*Via Zoom*

Committee Members Present: Roger Bolton (Chair), Edward Holub, Malcolm Fick, Mark Smith, Eleanor Tillinghast and Kyle Hanlon

Others Present: Melissa Provencher (BRPC), Karen Lombard (The Nature Conservancy), and Eric Ford (Division of Ecological Restoration)

**I. Call to Order**

ERC Chairman Bolton called the meeting to order at 2:13pm and began roll call.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2021**

The minutes of the meeting from May 27, 2021 were not available and approval of the minutes was tabled.

**III. Becker Pond Dam Removal, Mount Washington - Single Environmental Impact Report**

M. Provencher presented the Environmental Review Report and explained that the Environmental Review Committee reviewed the Expanded ENF (EENF) filed for this project in July 2020. At that time, the proposed project met or exceeded MEPA review thresholds for a Mandatory Environmental Impact Report (EIR) due to impacts to Wetlands, Waterways, and Tidelands and State-Listed Rare Species and meets MEPA review thresholds due to its location within a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The project proponent requested a full waiver from the EIR, and BRPC respectfully requested that the waiver from the mandatory EIR not be granted and that a Single EIR (SEIR) be required, at a minimum.

At the time the EENF was filed, the project was proposed as dam removal followed by passive transport of the sediments accumulated behind the dam into the downstream river system. In response to comments received during the EENF review process (Theoharides, 2020), the proposed project was modified to consist of dam removal, and excavation of a pilot channel in the sediments behind the dam. This approach was labeled as Alternative 4 and was adopted to minimize the natural transport of sediment from the impoundment into the downstream river stream system, thereby minimizing potential impacts to downstream resources, including Sages Ravine. The design plans have since been updated to reflect this change in approach.

Additionally, since the EENF was submitted, the preferred access road alternative has been confirmed. The proponent seeks to use an access road that is entirely within TNC property (described as Access

Entrance Alternative 2 in previous project-related documents). This alternative requires constructing a section of new access road that will join the existing access road approximately 700 linear feet from East Street. The new section of access will also include a staging area at the East Street entrance. At the location of the access point and staging area, East Street is a well-maintained gravel road owned by the Town. The road is closed during the winter season and snow removal is not provided. Once the Project is complete, TNC intends to convert the access road to a permanent pedestrian-only trail, reducing the construction width and using native plantings and/or seeding to restore disturbed areas.

E. Tillinghast explained that many people in Mount Washington do think the dam should be removed due to safety concerns and to support the restoration and stream connectivity. R. Bolton raised a few minor changes, and corrections to the Environmental Review Report. On page 5 of the report, in the first paragraph under Summary & Recommendations, the sentence beginning “It is clear that” should be changed to “BRPC agrees” or “BRPC believes”. Also on page 5 under Summary & Recommendations, the second sentence in the second paragraph beginning “Although dam removal” should be corrected to “Although dam repair”. On page 3, in the seventh line of the first paragraph under Traffic, Transit, and Pedestrian/Bicycle Access, “wear and tear one the access road” should be changed to “wear and tear on the access road”. On page 4, the last sentence of the last paragraph, a space is needed between “will” and “document”.

K. Hanlon moved to authorize the Executive Director to send a letter on behalf of the Committee consistent with staff recommendations within the Environmental Review Report and the Committee discussion. E. Tillinghast seconded the motion. ERC Chairman Bolton conducted a roll call vote.

R. Bolton: Aye

M. Fick: Aye

E. Holub: Aye

E. Tillinghast, Aye

M. Smith: Aye

K. Hanlon: Aye

The motion was passed.

#### **IV. Other Business**

ERC Chairman Bolton raised one item under Other Business. ERC Chairman Bolton recommended that the ERC general operating procedures be distributed and reviewed periodically as a good practice for both new and long term Committee members. The review of the ERC general operating procedures should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **V. Adjournment**

K. Hanlon made a motion to adjourn at 2:40pm. The motion was seconded by M. Fick. ERC Chairman Bolton conducted a roll call vote.

R. Bolton: Aye

K. Hanlon: Aye

E. Holub: Aye

M. Fick: Aye

E. Tillinghast: Aye

M. Smith: Aye

The motion was passed unanimously.

Materials distributed electronically:

- ERC Agenda 6/10/21
- Environmental Review Report 6/9/21