

**DRAFT
LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 3, 2020**

Members:

- ✓ = present

Current:

- ✓ Nelson Disco (Vice Chair) – Merrimack (current term expires 06/21/21)
- ✓ Chris Barrett – Nashua (current term expires 08/22/20)
- ✓ Michael Croteau – Litchfield (current term expires 11/08/20)
- ✓ George May – Merrimack (current term expires 06/14/20)
- ✓ Francis Murphy – Nashua (current term expires 01/06/23)
- George Russell – Hudson (current term expires Jan 2023)

Pending Renewal:

- ✓ Gene Porter (Chair) – Nashua (current term expired Dec 2019)
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) – Nashua (current term expired 08/12/17)

Also in attendance:

Jen Drociak, NH Department of Environmental Services
Nate Kirschner, Langan Engineering and Environmental Services
Brendan Quigley, Gove Environmental Services
Tracie Sales, NH Department of Environmental Services

Chairman Porter called the meeting, conducted via conference call, to order at 7:15pm under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, as allowed by Emergency Order 11 under Executive Order 2020-04 in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Chairman Porter requested Secretary Archambault conduct a roll call of LAC members, after which the chair invited guests to introduce themselves, and welcomed all present.

It was noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 23, 2020 LMRLAC meeting were approved via a roll call vote, with no objections.

New Business

Hudson: Hudson Logistics Center Dredge and Fill Wetland Permit Application (File #TBD)

The proposed project location is located at 43 Steele Road, the current site of the Green Meadow Golf Course. Chairman Porter summarized that the application under review is the Dredge and Fill Permit application. The applicant will also be submitting an Alteration of Terrain Permit application, which will be reviewed at another meeting after it is submitted.

Chairman Porter summarized the site location, which is in Hudson south of the Circumferential Highway and west of Lowell Road. The site is zoned industrial/commercial. The proposal includes three warehouse buildings totaling about 2.6 million square feet in area, parking for employees and for trucks, and an access road to the site. The Dredge and Fill proposal includes 144,179 square feet of permanent disturbance to wetlands on the site. Chairman Porter asked Mr. Barrett, the meeting host, to display a graphic indicating where the quarter-mile corridor line falls on the site. Most of the wetlands disturbance on site is outside the quarter-mile corridor. The wetlands on site drain either to Limit Brook or to another unnamed brook, both of which empty to the Merrimack River. There are two encroachments to the 250-

foot Protected Shoreland buffer shown on the plans for two stormwater detention areas.

Chairman Porter yielded the floor to Mr. Quigley, who summarized the wetland impacts on the site. Mr. Quigley explained that most of the wetlands are on the eastern part of the site, and that most of the wetland impacts are for site access. He pointed out the primary access, which will be a new route into the site, and a secondary access behind the current Sam's Club facility. He explained that the existing Steele Road could not be used for site access, primarily due to its proximity to residences and the need for extensive improvements to it for the increased traffic.

Mr. Quigley highlighted information from the permit application, pointing out the areas of wetland impact, and summarizing which drain to Limit Brook (with traverses a section of the southeastern portion of the site), and which drain to an unnamed brook which leaves the site to the north.

Mr. Quigley next explained the current and proposed conditions for the 250-foot Protected Shoreland buffer. He stated the buffer is currently a largely maintained lawn with paved cart paths and a pump station. He indicated the impervious surfaces will be removed and naturalized. He explained that the stormwater features which encroach into the Protected Shoreland buffer are located where they are primarily due to the elevations on the site.

Chairman Porter next asked a series of questions about the application. The first question was whether there will be flow impacts to Limit Brook. Mr. Quigley replied that post-development flows will be unchanged from pre-development flows, and that the project will result in treated drainage flowing to Limit Brook.

Chairman Porter next asked about the drainage from the Mercury Systems site and whether there would be a change in the flow to the Merrimack River. The reply was that the intent is to maintain existing drainage flows on the site. It was agreed that this would be discussed further when the Alteration of Terrain permit application review occurs.

Chairman Porter asked for more information about the location of the detention basins on the northwest and southwest parts of the site, and why they cannot be located outside the Protected Shoreland buffer. The response was that the flood plain is the limiting factor; moving the basins out of the shoreland buffer puts them in the flood zone and likely would result in having to resize them to compensate for storage in a flood zone.

Chairman Porter asked Mr. Quigley and Mr. Kirschner to comment on what they perceive as the major threats to the river. Their responses included the potential mismanagement of stormwater, and the potential impacts related to the proximity of the site to the Merrimack River. They indicated their view that the State's Alteration of Terrain program manages stormwater concerns well. They also indicated that the proposal allows for naturalization of the site near the river.

Chairman Porter next asked for comments or inputs from members. Mr. Disco asked for additional clarification on where the 100-year flood line is located on the site. Mr. Kirschner mentioned that several sheets in the application do show the flood line, and cited sheet CS-106 as an example. Chairman Porter asked whether the line takes into account any changes due to the Crest Gate bladder system on the Pawtucket Dam in Lowell. Mr. Kirschner indicated they would have to check on that, and could provide the information in conjunction with the Alteration of Terrain permit application.

Mr. Disco next asked whether asked what the view of the site would be from the river, and whether additional screening was proposed. The response was that the bank is currently forested.

Ms. Archambault asked whether LID practices were considered for the site, such as green roofs, rain gardens, or pervious pavers for the employee parking areas. Mr. Quigley replied that green roofs would be a challenge given the size of the buildings. Mr. Kirschner mentioned the potential for future solar on the roofs, which is incompatible with implementing a green roof. Although the application does not propose rain gardens, it does include filter strips and micro pools. Mr. Kirschner indicated that they can look into porous pavers for the employee parking. He also pointed out that the existing proposal provides the same function with more pre-treatment.

Mr. Disco asked about the water flow into the site from the east that goes through the site and eventually to the Merrimack River. Mr. Quigley replied that he does not have a watershed map of the Mercury Systems parcel, and reiterated that there are no changes proposed relative to the Mercury Systems parcel.

Mr. Disco asked about the water flow under the access road. Mr. Quigley replied that the post-development flow will match the pre-development flow. He also stated that the 60-inch culvert proposed for the crossing is oversized for the 50-year storm.

Mr. Quigley clarified his earlier statement that there was no need for a separate Shoreland application for the site. He explained that the applicant still needs to submit the information that would have been in a Shoreland application. Chairman Porter asked for LMRLAC to receive a copy of the Shoreland Addendum.

Chairman Porter asked whether any of the paved cart paths near the river could be used as part of a trail along the river. Mr. Kirschner replied that the trail is not designed yet, and depends on a discussion with the town of Hudson. He suggested that they could be used, to the extent that the trail ends up aligning with the existing cart paths.

Chairman Porter highlighted that one of LMRLAC's interests is to maintain, improve, and expand public access to the river.

Mr. Croteau asked if the project will have any impact on the Hudson water supply or wells. Mr. Kirschner replied that the site will not use groundwater. He indicated that there could be a potential impact from blasting, but that he does not anticipate the need for blasting on the site.

Mr. Croteau asked about the potential for storage of hazardous materials on site; the response given is that there will not be hazardous materials stored on site.

Mr. Croteau asked about water quality and Limit Brook impacts. Mr. Kirschner replied that the change in use from a golf course removes the level of herbicide and pesticide treatment that a golf course generally uses. Mr. Quigley reiterated that there will be no impacts to Limit Brook.

Chairman Porter summarized his comments thus far:

- LMRLAC requests the applicant look at relocating the two infiltration basins which are currently proposed to be located partially within the 250-foot Protected Shoreland buffer
- LMRLAC requests the applicant include a trail along the river and provide public boat access

Mr. Disco requested three additional comments:

- LMRLAC requests the applicant look into additional visual screening along the river
- LMRLAC requests the applicant consider permeable pavers for the employee parking areas on the site
- LMRLAC requests the applicant further highlight the 100-year flood line, especially

relative to the proposed infiltration basins

There being no further comments or discussion, Chairman Porter asked Secretary Archambault to take roll on submitting a response including the five proposed comments. The roll call resulted in seven affirmative votes, none in opposition, and no abstentions.

Chairman Porter stated he would send the comments to DES, Hudson, and to LMRLAC membership, and thanked Mr. Kirschner and Mr. Quigley for attending to discuss the application.

Chairman Porter stated he would set another meeting date upon receipt of the Alteration of Terrain permit application. Mr. Kirschner stated he expects to submit that application next week.

Old Business

None.

Items from the Floor

None.

Meeting adjourned 8:34pm.

Next LMRLAC Meeting

The next LMRLAC meeting is to be announced, will likely be conducted via conference call, and will be tied to receipt of the Hudson Logistics Center Alteration of Terrain permit application in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
Secretary
LMRLAC