

**2007 Annual Report
Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (LMRLAC)**

Meeting Dates

(LMRLAC) met in 2007 on the fourth Thursday of each month with a combined meeting for November and December.

Officers

- Chair ~ Bob Robbins
- Vice Chair ~ Kath Nelson
- Secretary ~ Karen Archambault
- Treasurer ~ Glenn McKibben

Corridor Plan

The primary focus of LMRLAC in 2007 was on collaborating with NRPC to finalize the Corridor Plan. Discussions were held at all of the meetings to provide comments, input and feedback to NRPC. Comments on organization and style were also provided.

River Place- Hudson

The large proposed project, referred to as River Place in Hudson along the riverfront at the former golf course, was discussed extensively. The NHDES Dredge and Fill application package was reviewed in detail. The lack of any low impact best management practices was noted as a concern and that storm water would impact the river significantly. Tracking the project at the local level including the Conservation Commission was discussed as a high priority. Among the comments discussed were to propose a no disturb area within 50 feet of the river, limited disturbance (walkways/bike path permitted, but no buildings or parking lots) in the next 100 feet. Restricted pesticide use and slow release fertilizer within 150 feet of the river. Another priority was to promote low impact development methods, including permeable parking lots. Members discussed the letter of 3-31-06 from NH Fish and Game regarding eagles and leaving a buffer on the river undisturbed. Three points from that letter were emphasized:

1. Request that the current wooded buffer along the river be retained
2. Point out that the current wooded buffer falls mostly in the existing jurisdictional area under the Shoreland Protection Act
3. Recommend the wooded buffer be placed in a conservation easement if possible. Members concluded that off-site wetland mitigation did not make sense and that mitigation should be aimed at the riverfront.

LMRLAC submitted a 17-point recommendation letter to NHDES.

Nashua Landing project – E. Spit Brook Road, Nashua

A NHDES wetland permit was reviewed for minor impacts to Spit Brook for redevelopment of the former Hampshire Chemical site. LMRLAC recommended daylighting Spit Brook road as well as including the recommendation in the Corridor Plan to daylight all piped brook segments that flow into the Merrimack when opportunities arise.

Communication with NHDES

Bob met with DES Commissioner Burack to discuss several areas of concern.

- Feedback to the LMRLAC on communications/recommendations that the LAC submits to NHDES. The LMRLAC would like feedback on what recommendations are and are not accepted and why.

- Better coordination between agencies

LMRLAC Newsletter

George put together a newsletter with information on flooding, comments on River Place and Nashua Landing (Dow Chemical redevelopment site in South Nashua), and asking for new members.

Communication with Hudson Conservation Commission

Bob attended a ConCom meeting and described what LMRLAC is and what it does. He mentioned that point source pollution is well covered in the corridor but that nonpoint source pollution is not.

Support of revised Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA)

LMRLAC sent a follow up letter supporting the Shoreland Protection Act changes to the committee chair, Martha Fuller Clark,

Nashua – Macy’s redevelopment at the Pheasant Lane Mall

A letter was sent to NHDES and the Nashua Planning Board to recommend the following:

- Enhance the landscaping
- Use LID for some portion of the project. One example given was to use a pervious surface for the walkway with an educational sign

Boat Ramp- Greeley Park

Nick Caggiano of Nashua Park and Recreation indicated that the Legal Department was researching the issue of whether the railroad crossing was public or private. The railroad crossing had to be resolved before NH Fish and Game would pursue leasing the boat ramp.

Litchfield Dock Permit

LMRLAC recommended that all the new provisions of CSPA be followed to minimize tree clearing along the bank.

Protected River Signs

George filled out an application and worked with DOT to get permission to put the signs up with assistance from each town’s highway departments to install the signs.

River Clean Up

A river trail cleanup day near the Sagamore Bridge in Nashua was held on November 18.