

Members:

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- ✓ Bob Robbins (Chair) – Hudson
- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Vice Chair) -- Nashua
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) -- Nashua
- ✓ Glenn McKibben (Treasurer) – Litchfield
- Cynthia Ruonala (Public Relations) – Nashua
- George May - Merrimack
- ✓ Jim Barnes – Hudson
- Ray Peeples – Litchfield
- Stan Kazlouskas – Hudson

Associate Members:

Millie Mugica – Nashua

Also in attendance:

Minda Shaheen, NRPC
Lucy St. John, City of Nashua
Jim Fougere, Schauer Environmental Consultants
Lynn Zebrowski, Keach-Nordstrom Associates

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm in the east wing downstairs at the Nashua Public Library. Kath indicated that Millie had contacted her to indicate she would be unable to attend. Lucy St. John, environmental planner for the City of Nashua, introduced herself. Members voted to change the order of the agenda to hear the presentation on the King St project in Merrimack first.

Old Business- RES Realty Trust, King St, Merrimack

The application is to fill 1.026 square feet of wetland as part of its proposal to construct a wood pallet recycling plant. The plan includes fill of the wetland, construction of a retention basin near where the wetland is currently located, and proposes the basin would handle the stormwater on-site as well as off-site stormwater that drains to the site.

Kath summarized the project and discussion from the January meeting, and the letter submitted by the LAC expressing concern that insufficient information had been supplied to the LAC.

Mr. Fougere and Ms. Zebrowski introduced themselves and indicated they are attending the meeting to address the concerns expressed by the LAC.

Ms. Zebrowski handed out copies of the project site plan and passed around a copy of the drainage plan for the site. She summarized the location, background, and existing conditions of the site. The site is located on King St in Merrimack. The site was at one time the location of a sawmill. The site is currently gravel on part of the site and covered with young trees on part of the site. The site is around 700 feet from the Merrimack River, separated from it by the railroad tracks.

Ms. Zebrowski summarized that the site has sandy soils to about 6 feet down, with ledge underneath.

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The pallet recycling operation is expected to see 4-8 truck trips a day.

Kath asked whether there would be a culvert under the railroad to the river. Ms. Zebrowski replied there would not be a culvert. Kath asked whether there was evidence of hazardous waste on the site; Ms. Zebrowski replied that the standard checks revealed no such materials.

Ms. Zebrowski described the wetland fill work and construction of the retention pond. The pond will retain runoff from the site as well as stormwater that flows on to the site. The retention pond will include a sediment forebay. Dry wells will be used in the pond to handle stormwater when the pond is frozen. Ditches along the northerly and southerly parts of the site will feed the pond. Stormwater will sheet off the central part of the site to the pond.

Ms. Zebrowski indicated paving plans under phase 1 are to just pave the cul-de-sac and lay the concrete loading dock. The applicant expects to pave much of the site during a phase 2 within the next few years.

Kath asked whether the retention pond design will handle the stormwater for the site in its phase 2 state, and Ms. Zebrowski indicated that it is designed to do so. Ms. Zebrowski also mentioned that the sediment forebay is sized for the two-year storm, compared to the state requirement of 50% of the one-year storm. The application follows the new site-specific rules.

Bob asked whether pervious pavement could be considered for the site. Ms. Zebrowski replied that cost was a factor for the applicant. She also informed the LAC that the Merrimack Planning Board was concerned about dust on the site.

Members reiterated concerns about the amount of pavement planned for the site and reiterated pursuing options to minimize impervious cover in the corridor.

The committee thanked Mr. Fougere and Ms. Zebrowski for coming in to describe the project.

After the presenters left, the committee discussed the project further. Members discussed the maintenance plan for the site and how following up on maintenance plans generally occurs when an abutter notices evidence of a problem on a site. Members agreed that it appears the plan will not affect the river from an aesthetic standpoint.

The LAC voted to send a letter to DES to follow up on the initial letter, indicating additional detail had been provided on the project. The LAC will request that the applicant include plantings for the retention pond. Kath will put together a letter and send it to DES.

Minutes

The minutes from the August 23, October 25, December 6 and January 24 meetings were approved.

Presentation on CSPA Changes at NRPC

Jim mentioned that he attended the presentation at NRPC on February 28 and that it was interesting. Karen and George were also present at the meeting. Minda mentioned that Arlene Allen's presentation and the model ordinance are available on the NRPC Web site. Members discussed how the new rules are now scheduled to go into effect in July. Kath recommended that any plan that comes before the LAC at this point meet the new standards. Kath mentioned that the Alteration of Terrain rules will now be going through an update as well. Minda will look into whether Amy Clark from DES could give a presentation at NRPC about the updated Alteration of Terrain permit in conjunction with the upcoming steep slopes seminar.

Old Business – Nashua Landing

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Bob and Kath summarized the discussion from the January LMRLAC meeting about the situation with Nashua Landing. Members briefly discussed the status and expressed thanks to Bob and Kath for following up on this issue.

Corridor Management Plan Grant

Minda handed out copies of a grant pre-proposal to develop a model ordinance on impervious surface and an LID guidebook. Members were enthusiastic about NRPC pursuing this grant. Minda will work with Kath to generate a letter of support from the LAC on the grant. Kath will get the letter of support to Minda by April 10.

Corridor Management Plan

Minda thanked members for their comments and stated all comments have been incorporated. Minda asked Kath to clarify a comment on height restriction. Kath stated that the goal of a height restriction would be for aesthetics and views from the river. Minda will change the wording to discuss height in a shoreland zone as separate, perhaps a subset, of those laid out in the new CSPA. A brief discussion followed on allowing buildings to 'build up' to limit impervious surface and how that may conflict with protecting the view from the river. Members discussed the difference between a tall building right on the river and a tall building set back from the river with a screen (e.g. wooded buffer).

Minda stated the next step is to build the Table of Contents and to pull in the maps/figures. Members asked whether the maps could be reviewed again before final incorporation. Minda said she would look into a way to provide the maps to members for a final review.

Members also mentioned having a large map to be used for presentations to boards. Members stated a presentation map would also be a useful thing to have for such things as the DES watershed conference.

Bob asked about whether the maps have unnamed bodies of water. Minda indicated that the water bodies on the maps have names. The map data comes from the NRPC GIS information. The table of water bodies in the plan listing unnamed water bodies is using DES information. Minda will add a cross reference in the table to the maps.

Members briefly discussed presenting the plan to Merrimack, Litchfield, Hudson, and Nashua. The intention is to have each community adopt the plan, or sections of it, as part of each community's Master Plan.

Members discussed different options for meetings to introduce the plan. Members considered having an initial meeting/workshop at NRPC and to invite Planning Board and Conservation Commission board members, and to have Steve Couture attend if possible. Follow up meetings might then be scheduled with boards in each town/city.

Lucy suggested that local environmental groups be invited as well.

Minda will get a copy of the plan to Lucy so she can become familiar with it.

Other Business

Minda briefed the LAC on the schedule for the corridor Recreation Plan. She stated the survey is on-line and that members would be receiving e-mails within a few days to review and respond to the survey. She will be sending the survey out to collect information on existing trails, and will use this information as a starting point when she starts surveying trails in May using GPS and a camera. Minda said the plan will be done by September.

Lucy suggested contacting the schools to get the survey to any outdoor/recreation clubs at the schools.

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Minda informed members that there is a Household Hazardous Waste collection on April 12 in Nashua.

Membership

Kath and Karen's reappointments have been finalized. Cynthia will not be seeking reappointment at this time. Beth Chestnutt is still considering.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at 7pm at the Nashua Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
secretary