

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:

None

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm in the east wing downstairs at the Nashua Public Library.

Minutes

The minutes from the March 27, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Recreation Plan

Kath will contact Minda on the status of the Recreation Plan.

Corridor Management Plan

Members discussed the status of the plan, how to go about presenting the plan to the communities, and how to make it easy for the communities to adopt the plan. Jim suggested one way to adopt the plan is for communities to put a cross-reference in their Master Plans.

Jim informed the rest of the LAC that Hudson is having a joint meeting on May 7 with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and ZBA. Members discussed getting a brief presentation on the plan update on the agenda for this meeting. Kath will contact Minda to ask her to put together a presentation on the plan update and to either attend the meeting or make the presentation available to Jim for the meeting. Members asked Jim to set aside 30 minutes on the agenda for the joint meeting to allow time for a brief (15 minute) presentation on the plan update and time for questions. The meeting starts at 7pm and will be held in the Town Hall engineering/planning conference room.

Members discussed what the focus and content of the presentation should be, and decided the presentation should include a brief introduction of the LAC – what we are and what we do – and then focus on a summary of the plan update. Members discussed using either the plan's table of contents or highlights from the goals and objectives and the action plan.

Members also discussed the need for following up with the communities after the initial plan presentation – reconnecting with the Planning Board in each of the four communities about

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adopting the plan, allowing them enough time to review the plan but not so much time that they'll forget the plan.

Glenn indicated that Litchfield boards have joint workshops all the time. Kath and Karen indicated that joint workshops are not common in Nashua.

Members discussed what sort of meeting to set up with the other towns (besides Hudson) to present the plan update. Members discussed setting up a meeting with each town's Planning Board, and inviting the Conservation Commission to the meeting. The Planning Board would be the primary board to contact, being the board responsible for adopting the plan as part of its town's Master Plan.

For the Nashua meeting, Karen will contact Lucy St. John to discuss getting on the agenda for a Planning Board meeting to discuss the corridor plan.

For Merrimack, George will work on setting something up.

For Litchfield, Kath will contact Minda and either Kath or Minda will contact Joan McKibben to coordinate a meeting.

Kath will contact Minda to request the following for the corridor management plan:

- the final plan, complete with table of contents, maps, and presentation map
- a 20-30 minute PowerPoint presentation that any LAC member could give to the member towns about the updated plan
- attendance at 5 meetings to give the presentation (1 at NRPC, 1 at each of the member towns)
- 15 hard copies of the plan (1 for DES, 2 for each town, 1 for each LAC member)
- electronic copies of the plan to hand out at the meetings (number undetermined)

Members briefly discussed the map format. Glenn mentioned that Litchfield recently received mapping software from NRPC, and will look into whether the plan maps can overlay with that software.

RMAC

Kath reminded members that she is the LAC representative to the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC). She informed the members about a situation where another LAC in the state had not received notification prior to a spraying event for weed eradication. She informed the members that she is on the agenda for the June RMAC meeting to discuss how to incorporate LAC notification into proposed legislative changes that deal with the designated rivers. George suggested that the approach should be that a plan cannot go forward without feedback from the LAC. Members also discussed sending an immediate response to DES when a plan is before them with insufficient information available to make recommendations on it.

Kath suggested that that LAC remind planners in the member communities to notify the LAC when something happens in the corridor.

New Business

Merrimack River Stream Team

Kath read a letter about the Merrimack River Stream Team in Massachusetts, which is looking for volunteers to perform a visual and qualitative survey of the portion of the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. Volunteers will survey 4-mile stretches of the river in teams. Training sessions will occur on April 28 in Lowell and April 29 in Haverhill. She suggested that the LAC could learn more about this and look into setting up such a survey here. She will contact Minda with

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information about the Massachusetts effort and ask her to pursue a grant for a similar survey for the Lower Merrimack.

George stated the LAC should ask for a copy of the survey when it's complete, and Kath agreed, adding that the LAC should get a copy of the survey template as well.

George mentioned that he believes there have been several surveys of the river over the years. For example, he remembers participating in a pipe survey on the Merrimack. George will try to find out more about that survey.

Local Updates

Nashua

Karen mentioned that she had attended a Nashua Conservation Commission meeting a few months ago at which a presentation was given on plans to address erosion at Thoreau's Landing in Nashua, which is on the Merrimack just north of the mouth of the Nashua River. Karen will contact the engineer (Peter McGlew of Aries Engineering) with the LAC meeting schedule to see when he might come in to give a presentation to the LAC.

George asked if there was any information on the Beazer land. Members briefly discussed the proposed river crossing there that would have been privately funded if the effort had gone forward. Kath mentioned that she had discussed the Greeley Park boat ramp briefly with Mayor Lozeau during her reappointment interview. Kath also followed up with Nick Caggiano (head of Nashua Park and Recreation) and Kathy Hersh (head of Nashua Community Development) and was informed that any plans to improve the Greeley Park site were on hold and not likely to happen at this time, due in part to the issues with the at-grade railroad crossing on the access road. Kath asked the LAC members for their views on improving the existing Greeley Park boat ramp. LAC members expressed a desire to improve the existing Greeley Park boat ramp. Bob stated he would like to bring this up when we present the plan. George suggested having a meeting at the site, and showed members a sketch of one way to improve the site by adding a parking area.

Other Business

George handed out copies of the 2008 Merrimack River Watershed Council canoe and kayak trip schedule for members to help distribute.

Bob attended the EPA President's Volunteer Service Award ceremony at Fanueil Hall on Earth Day, accepting the award for LMRLAC. Bob stated he would write a press release about the event and mention the updated corridor management plan.

Kath showed members some Wildlife Action Plan brochures she had in her files. Millie offered to take them and use them as training materials in her classroom.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 at 7pm at the Nashua Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
secretary