

**LMRLAC – June 22, 2017**

**LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**June 22, 2017**

**Members:**

- ✓ = present

**Current:**

- ✓ Gene Porter (Chair) – Nashua (current term expires Dec 2019)
- ✓ Nelson Disco (Vice Chair) – Merrimack (current term expires 08/28/17)
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) – Nashua (current term expires 08/12/17)
- ✓ Christine Dupree (Treasurer) – Hudson (current term expires 11/25/17)
- ✓ Michael Croteau – Litchfield (current term expires 08/12/17)
- ✓ Richard LeBourdais – Hudson (current term expires 11/06/17)
- ✓ George May – Merrimack (current term expires 06/14/20)
- ✓ Francis Murphy – Nashua (current term expires 02/18/19)

**Associate Members:**

Mildred Mugica – Nashua

**Also in attendance:**

Thomas Friel, Independence Rowing Club board member  
Brent Cole, Keach-Nordstrom Associates  
John Lorden, T.F.Moran  
Michael Accomando, Mel's Funway Park  
Wayne Caulfield, Mel's Funway Park

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by Chairman Gene Porter in the Meeting Room of the Nashua Public Library, with a quorum present.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the April 27, 2017 meeting were approved as written. Mr. Croteau abstained, having missed the April meeting.

**New Business**

**Independence Rowing Club**

Mr. Friel introduced himself and gave a summary of the IRC activities to encourage people to row. Chairman Porter pointed out that IRC's desire to get people on the river fits with LMLRAC's desire to encourage interest in the river.

Mr. Friel explained that the IRC is looking for ways to increase youth interest and participation in rowing. He stated some high schools in the state have rowing programs, but none within the LAC corridor. IRC has an adult learn-to-row program, but has struggled in recent years to increase and sustain youth interest. Mr. Friel summarized outreach attempts the club has tried to date.

Mr. LeBourdais summarized his experience in starting a hockey program in Hudson. He explained that the sport started at the club level, and gained parent support and involvement. He also suggested that there be some basic information available to give parents an idea of what the program would entail. Ms. Dupree suggested a Facebook page would be a way to reach out to youth.

Chairman Porter mentioned the Nashua River Waterfront Initiative and suggested the IRC look

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at rowing along stretches of the Nashua River. Mr. Friel commented that a few members do row on the Nashua River in the spring.

Chairman Porter informed Mr. Friel that LMRLAC is supportive and available to help. Members thanked Mr. Friel for coming in to speak with them.

### **UMRLAC Review Procedures**

Chairman Porter distributed information on the Upper Merrimack River LAC Permit Application Review Guidance and encouraged members to use it as a reference for plan reviews during the evening's meeting.

The current LMRLAC development review checklist is available at [http://www.nashuarpc.org/files/8113/9334/6261/Updated\\_DevelopmentRevChecklist.pdf](http://www.nashuarpc.org/files/8113/9334/6261/Updated_DevelopmentRevChecklist.pdf). Chairman Porter asked members to look it over for review and update, along with the UMRLAC process and review guidelines, for a future meeting.

### **Hudson: 15 Central Street Shoreland Permit Application (File #2017-01636)**

Mr. Cole introduced himself and summarized the site and the planned project. The parcel has access from Central Street in Hudson and currently has a warehouse in disrepair, and a gravel driveway. The applicant is proposing a 14-car paved parking lot on the currently undeveloped portion of the site, replacing the warehouse building, and paving for a currently graveled road/driveway. Some of the planned work is within the 150-foot Natural Woodland Buffer and most of the rest of it is within the 250-foot Protected Shoreland Buffer. The project has been submitted to the Hudson Planning Board and is on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

Stormwater treatment planned for the site includes a sluiceway to a sediment forebay, then a bioretention basin for infiltration. Eventually the treated stormwater flows into the Merrimack River. The stormwater treatment planned for the site is designed to handle the 25-year storm. The increase in impervious surface on the site is approximately 4000 square feet.

Chairman Porter asked about salt use on the site. There is a portion of the access road from Central Street with a 20% grade. Some members expressed a desire for no salt use on the site, others suggested that a judicious use of salt would be necessary due to the grade.

Members expressed concerns about hazardous materials within the shoreland buffer and indicated there should be no outside storage of such materials.

Members asked about the type of paving proposed for the parking lot and requested the applicant consider using porous pavers.

Tree cutting will take place on the site within the 250-foot Protected Shoreland Buffer to clear the proposed parking lot location. There is no planned tree cutting in the 50-foot Waterfront Buffer or 150-foot Natural Woodland Buffer.

Mr. May asked if there was a drainage plan as part of the application package. Mr. Cole replied that there was not and that he typically did not submit one for a Shoreland permit application.

Mr. Croteau asked if the applicant has a response from NH Fish and Game about threatened or endangered species. Mr. Cole replied that they did and that there are no records of such species in the project area.

Members also asked to see where snow storage is indicated on the plans, and requested it be as far from the river as possible. Mr. Cole indicated it is next to the treatment area.

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Members summarized their concerns in the following list of comments:

- LMRLAC would like to see a drainage plan for the project site
- LMRLAC recommends that no hazardous materials be stored outside
- LMRLAC requests that snow treatment be performed by certified Green SnowPro personnel
- LMRLAC requests the applicant consider the use of porous pavers for the parking lot

Chairman Porter will submit the comments to DES, to the applicant, and to the Hudson Planning Board.

### **Litchfield: Mel's Funway Park Shoreland Permit Application (File #TBD)**

Mr. Lorden introduced himself and explained project has been to the Litchfield Planning Board and has received conditional approval. The scope of the project is to replace three large seasonal tents with permanent pavilion structures. Among the reasons for replacing the tents are to save time and effort. The plan also includes running permanent water lines for sprinklers for the pavilions. One of the three pavilions will be largely within the 250-foot Protected Shoreland Buffer. The site includes an existing berm which prevents stormwater runoff from flowing to the river. The pavilion roof runoff will be infiltrated on site.

The pavilions will be used for the Halloween season and for storage the remainder of the year. The increase in impervious surface as a result of the project is approximately 1250 square feet within the 250-foot Protected Shoreland Buffer.

When asked, Mr. Lorden indicated he did not have drainage calculations yet.

Chairman Porter mentioned the desire to extend the Heritage Trail system and for trails along the river. Mr. Croteau mentioned that Litchfield has a trails subcommittee. Chairman Porter plugged an outreach program to the towns in order to gain enthusiasm for trails along the river. Mr. Croteau will contact Chairman Porter with the date of the next meeting of the subcommittee. He also mentioned that LMRLAC could invite a representative to come to a future meeting when they have a plan in place. Mr. Croteau also reminded members that Litchfield is currently working on updating its Master Plan and is including a section on river access.

Chairman Porter will submit a comment on the project regarding LMRLAC's desire to see a trail along the river.

Members thanked Mr. Lorden, Mr. Accomando, and Mr. Caulfield for coming to the meeting.

### **New England Inland Rivers Geographic Response Plans**

Chairman Porter explained that this is an EPA program to have plans in place in response to oil spills. Chairman Porter took participants on a boat tour of the Merrimack River. The consensus was that the Greeley Park boat ramp and Merrill Park in Hudson are the locations for boats to put in to the river to install booms to contain a spill.

Mr. Disco asked about the purpose of having access from both sides of the river. Chairman Porter will ask at the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **Action Item Status from Previous Meetings**

##### **Beazer East**

Chairman Porter has been monitoring the progress of the project. He indicated sampling data is available and commented that the sampling indicates there has not been evidence of creosote seeping into the river for the past 6 months.

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The link to the sampling data is:

<https://www4.des.state.nh.us/IISProxy/IISProxy.dll?ContentId=4647599>

Mr. May asked whether LMRLAC could get a tour of the site. Chairman Porter will work on arranging a tour. Chairman Porter also offered members an opportunity for a boat trip to view the site from the river.

### **LMRLAC Corridor Management Plan Update**

Chairman Porter is waiting for a response from NRPC on the cost of the previous Corridor Management Plan update.

### **LMRLAC Annual Report**

Chairman Porter will send the biennial report to DES in the near future.

### **Nashua: Greeley Park Boat Ramp Improvement**

Chairman Porter reported that the grant approval for this project is expected to be completed in time for planning and construction to occur in late 2018 or early 2019.

Mr. Disco asked what impact the proposed Historic District expansion into Greeley Park might have on the boat ramp project. Chairman Porter responded that it will have no impact on the boat launch.

### **Prospective Car-Top Boat Launch in Litchfield**

Mr. Croteau indicated he is not aware of any updates on this prospective project.

### **Membership**

Mr. May has received his reappointment confirmation. Mr. Croteau stated that his current term expires in August and that he intends to apply to renew his nomination to LMRLAC. Several other members are up for renewal later this year as well.

Chairman Porter highlighted the need for additional members from Litchfield and Merrimack, in particular. Mr. Croteau replied that he has been reaching out to a possible prospect. Mr. May stated he had reached out to the Merrimack Conservation Commission and Town Council, but has not yet received a response.

### **Recent Events**

#### **LAC Workshop at DES**

Chairman Porter stated that Mr. Disco and Mr. May had attended the workshop in May. He passed along a couple of highlights from the workshop. One was that DES is interested in plan review comments that are unique to a particular corridor. Another was to review by-laws and adjust quorum requirements if necessary.

Mr. May asked about the possibility of receiving copies of applications electronically. Members discussed the topic briefly, including the fact that electronic application distribution would require the application provide a link to a publicly accessible storage location from which LAC members could access the application materials.

Secretary Archambault will distribute copies of LMRLAC's current by-laws to members.

### **Draft 2016, Section 303(d) List of Integrated Water Quality Assessment Data Day at Pease**

Chairman Porter attended this DES review. He pointed out that the lower Merrimack River is on the list of impaired waters for pH. The list is updated every few years. He indicated the meeting was very data-oriented. The list can be seen at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/2016/index.htm>

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This led to a discussion of water quality and testing. Chairman Porter asked members to think about what water quality concerns LMRLAC should have for the river corridor. He asked members to consider how development contributes to contamination, and suggested surface runoff of nutrients and sediment were two main categories. Chairman Porter also suggested water quality testing should include phosphorus or nitrates to measure impacts over time. Mr. May stated testing for dissolved oxygen (dO) is included on samples from the Souhegan and the Merrimack. Members discussed testing for dO as a substitute for nutrients testing and Chairman Porter pointed out it is not a completely representative substitute. Mr. May stated he has data from when phosphorus testing was included; funding is not currently available for that testing.

### **MRWC State of the Waters Conference at NRPC**

Chairman Porter attended this conference. He stated it was well attended, with a diverse group of organizations represented. He summarized the conference as consisting of a good policy discussion.

### **Nashua River Waterfront Initiative**

Chairman Porter reminded members that Nashua is wrapping up its crowd sourcing process to collect feedback on the Nashua River waterfront from Ledge Street to the Bridge Street bridge. He highlighted one comment in particular, which requests a trail along the Nashua River to the Merrimack River.

### **Pawtucket (a.k.a Boott Hydropower) Dam**

Chairman Porter received notification of river level lowering for flashboard work. He followed up with Enel to learn why there was continued flashboard work with the Crest Gate bladder system installed. He was informed that the flashboard work is still required this year; the Crest Gate bladder project is not yet complete.

### **Feedback on Recent Applications**

#### **Litchfield: Erickson Construction Alteration of Terrain (File #20170413-053) Shoreland (File #2017-00972) Dredge and Fill (File #2017-01005)**

Chairman Porter stated that DES had cited LMRLAC's snow storage concerns in processing the application.

#### **Nashua: Park and Ride Alteration of Terrain (File #201700221-024)**

Chairman Porter stated that the applicant noted LMRLAC's concerns about parking over the retention structure, and will impose a weight limit.

### **Other Business**

#### **Designated River Status for the 'mid Merrimack'**

Chairman Porter asked members to think about the possibility of getting the currently undesignated portion of the Merrimack River (from Garvin's Falls Dam in Bow to the Merrimack/Litchfield line) added as a Designated River.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

### **Next LMRLAC Meeting**

The next LMRLAC meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2017, at 7:00 pm at the Nashua Public Library. Mr. Disco stated he would not be able to attend that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Archambault  
Secretary