

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 22, 2004

Members:

✓ = present

(#) = number of consecutive absences

- ✓ Bob Robbins (Chair) – Hudson
- ✓ Stan Kazlouskas – Hudson
- George May (Secretary) – Merrimack (1)
- ✓ Glenn McKibben (Treasurer) – Litchfield
- ✓ Will Jewett – Litchfield
- Ray Peeples – Litchfield (3)
- ✓ Rick Maddox – Hudson
- ✓ Jim Barnes – Hudson
- ✓ Patrick Tate – Hudson
- ✓ John Mitterholzer – Nashua
- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Vice-Chair/Public Relations Officer)– Nashua

Others:

- ✓ Angela Rapp – NRPC
- Karen Archambault – Nashua Conservation Commission

Meeting came to order at 7:00pm

As George May was not present, Kath will take minutes.

The minutes of the June 24th, 2004 meeting were approved unanimously with a motion by Will Jewett and seconded by Patrick Tate.

Updates - No updates were available for this meeting

Old Business

- Proposal is to start with LMRLAC presentations to Planning Boards (PB) of member communities. Four PB meetings would be scheduled for October, November and December. Presenters would be Steve Couture, Angie Rapp, and Bob Robbins (except for in Merrimack). Kath Nelson will fill in for Bob if he is unable to attend. Steve is able to attend the 3rd Tuesday of and the fourth Wednesday of the month; Angie would fill in for Steve for the other meetings if necessary.

The plan is to attend Planning Board meetings on the 3rd Tuesday and the 4th Wednesday of the month. Presentations will be about 15 minutes and will be ready to be reviewed at the August meeting. 15 minutes for questions seemed reasonable.

Rick Maddox suggested that the Planning Boards be sent a package prior to the meeting containing LMRLAC information. Sending packets 1 week in advance of the PB was suggested.

The following is the suggested schedule for the presentations:

Hudson PB (4th Wednesday), will be October 27th. Jim Barnes volunteered to set that meeting up. Litchfield PB (3rd Tuesday), will be October 19th. Will Jewett will contact the Litchfield Planning Board.

Merrimack PB (3rd Tuesday), is November 16th. It was assumed that George May would contact the Planning Board.

Nashua PB (4th Tuesday) is December 21st, Kath Nelson will contact Rick Sawyer to schedule.

- Grant Survey- Bob and Kath will try and get volunteers for mailing help. Kath has contacted Linda Bretz who has indicated a small group of Girl Scouts could be available to help. Bob thought he would also be able to contact other groups for help.
- Development Review- A July 13th letter from Maynard and Paquette was received with comments back from the previously sent LMRLAC comments. The letter stated that the 20' Heritage Trail is now shown on the Plan. Also the Shoreland Protection Lines have been added to the Plan and that markers will be installed. Stormwater BMP's will be followed. The letter also stated that a Federal N.O.I. has been filed, and that notes have been added to Drawing 19 relative to Phase II stormwater regulations. Angie noted that she thought this was an example of a successful comment process for the group.

New Business

- Development Review- A DES Shoreland Protection Fact Sheet that Kath had taken off the web page was discussed to be included with the checklist that LMRLAC provides to Planning Boards to inform them of what information the group reviews. Additional work on the checklist was suggested to consolidate the form. Angie will work on this. Discussion on the content of the checklist focused on requesting further documentation on applicable questions. Rick suggested referencing the RSA's after each question and that specific information should be required to be shown on plans. It was discussed that the checklist will be 3 pages and will include background info on LMRLAC. Angie will try her best to prepare a revised version of the checklist for the next meeting.
- Angie read correspondence from Keach-Nordstrom, July 16th concerning the Annandale Fields in Litchfield. The letter questioned a reference to plantings in the 150' buffer. Angie will follow up and try to get plans for the next meeting.
- A new application for a project proposed by KeySpan on the Nashua River in Nashua was reviewed. The work is to cover the existing gas pipe with a revetment mat and riprap. Stan commented that perhaps they could run the gas pipe over the train trestle and avoid a pipe in the river. The group had questions on the lifespan of the new work and pipe. It was noted that the pipe was put in the early 80's. Kath mentioned that the Nashua Conservation Commission had reviewed this application at its last meeting and members had gone on a site walk this week. She had contacted Dori Wiggen at DES to find out if they had any concerns and Dori said she was comfortable with the work.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously to send a letter to DES that requested more information on the long-term viability of the project. Kath will write the letter and send it to Angie.

- The Dredge and Fill for the Route 102/Derry Road project in Hudson submitted by NH DOT was deferred to the next meeting after Angie contacts them to clarify.
- Corridor Management Plan-

Kath will handle publicity. She sent out a press release to the Nashua Telegraph and the Hippo Press, a new newspaper focusing on downtown issues. She will send information to the Broadcaster. Kath had contacted Tom Burke who is a former chair of the Nashua Conservation Commission and works at Irwin Marine about taking the group on a pontoon ride on the Merrimack. Tom is able to go out on August 26th at 5:30 leaving from the Greeley Park boat ramp. He can take 10- 12 people. All the members present indicated they could attend and the others not present would have notice in the minutes. Rick will contact Anne Lundregan of the Nashua Telegraph to attend. Kath had previously sent word to Andrew Nelson asking if he was interested in coming along. Kath will also attempt to contact Carolyn Choate of TV 13 to see if she is interested.

Local Updates

- It was noted that October 3rd is the canoe and kayak trip lead by Chuck Mower and sponsored by LMRLAC. Kath will send out a press release in September. Launch will be at Depot Street and take out at Greeley Park. The trip is 7 miles.
- Kath showed the group the E. Hollis Street Master plan that the City of Nashua had prepared by a consultant. The Plan includes the Merrimack and Nashua riverfront area. It was suggested that Karen Berchtold, Nashua planner attend a September meeting to discuss the plan as it covers the 1/4 mile river corridor. Kath will contact her about attending.
- John Mitterholzer informed the group of the Nashua Board of Alderman approving the new River Boardwalk, which will be 700 feet along the side of the former Goodale Bike Shop. The entire riverwalk will loop along the river in the downtown area including the old Cotton Building bridge, which will be constructed for pedestrian access. John indicated that there is a lot of excitement downtown about this Boardwalk and the plan is to have it built by November.
- John informed the group that the press release sent by Kath was included in the latest Hippo magazine. He will talk to Hippo about maybe getting a longer feature article in a future edition.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50pm.