

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES July 28, 2005

Members:

- ✓ = present

- ✓ 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
- Patrick Tate – Hudson
- ✓ Ray Peeples – Litchfield
- Stan Kazlouskas – Hudson
- ✓ Will Jewett – Litchfield
- Rick Maddox – Hudson
- Sharon Akers – Merrimack

Also in attendance:

- ✓ Danielle Fillis - NRPC

Chair Bob Robbins called the meeting to order at 7:07pm in the meeting room at the town offices in Litchfield. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Prior to the approval of the minutes, a brief discussion took place on the process for sending out minutes to the member towns to fulfill the bylaws. The contact person for each member town was determined to be as follows:

Hudson: Jim Barnes will be considered the town contact

Nashua: Angie Vincent

Litchfield: Steve Wagner at NRPC is Litchfield's circuit rider planner

Merrimack: Karen and/or Danielle will determine the contact information for Tim Tieperman, the town administrator

Approval of minutes: the May minutes were approved with two changes. The June minutes were approved as submitted.

Meet the new planner: Danielle Fillis introduced herself as a land use/environmental planner at NRPC and who will be working with LMRLAC. Danielle summarized her background: a BS in biology, Peace Corps experience in Ghana, and a master's degree from Tufts. The committee welcomed her aboard.

Survey: Bob indicated that he had made some changes to the survey form since the June meeting. A discussion followed on the target audience for the survey. The initial survey is going to river abutters and across the street from abutters. There may be contact later with local boards or the general public. Among the options discussed for future contact would be to have the survey on the Web. This in turn led to a discussion of NRPC's role in hosting LMRLAC materials. Ray Peeples indicated he would bring up this issue at the next NRPC Executive Committee meeting in August.

The survey postcard was briefly discussed. Bob indicated that ultimately he used a river shot that had been taken by Angie, rather than the eagle shot.

The process to send out the surveys and to compile the results was discussed. Bob indicated that Glenn should be getting checks totaling \$1250 (\$750 from DES and \$500 from Citigroup) which should cover the cost of the postcard and survey postage. The possibility of bulk mailing was discussed; the consensus was that the extra work to sort on mail route was not worth the couple of cents' worth of savings per item. Bob asked for a show of hands for members interested in attending and helping at an "envelope stuffing party" for the surveys and received a strong positive response. Discussion followed on getting labels with addresses for the postcards and surveys and how best to review the mailing list prior to sending out the postcards. Ray indicated that Litchfield is working on a re-valuation, but the Litchfield list for the survey is probably small enough to be checked by hand. Glenn indicated that Joan should have an updated list for the river (for Litchfield) already. It was decided that the mailing list could be reviewed during the process of attaching labels. Bob indicated he would check at work for the availability of a folding machine for the surveys. Danielle indicated that the survey responses will go to NRPC and a LMRLAC member will have to pick them up.

Water quality monitoring and funding: The committee discussed collecting and distributing donations toward water quality monitoring for sites on the Merrimack River. The Souhegan Watershed Association would still coordinate the monitoring effort, but funding for the lower Merrimack portion would come from LMRLAC. Discussion followed on the possibility of tying the monitoring to fulfilling NPDES Phase II stormwater requirements and soliciting donations from the local DPWs. Discussion continued on an appropriate amount to request from each town, and whether the resulting report would be sufficient to satisfy NPDES Phase II. George indicated that additional testing could be financed with sufficient funding (\$500 per town, for a total of \$2000, was discussed). The motion was made that LMRLAC agrees to coordinate with the towns to provide data for NPDES Phase II water quality monitoring for the lower Merrimack for the towns. Motion was seconded and passed. Bob asked that Cynthia contact the Jonathan Van Fleet at the Telegraph about this matter.

Nashua boat ramp: Bob briefly brought up and reviewed the Nashua boat ramp/railroad crossing issue. Kath indicated she had spoken with Steve Williams, NRPC Executive Director, who indicated that it was not at all likely that Guilford would pay for the signalling upgrade; he suggested that there would be a better chance of Nashua funding the boat ramp. Bob indicated that LMRLAC should keep pressure on this issue and place it on the agenda each month to track it. Ray indicated that Mark Kerouac is in charge of infrastructure at Fish and Game. George took the action to contact Bob L'Heureux of Merrimack (who chairs the Fish and Game committee in the House) to ask him to attend the August LMRLAC meeting along with someone from Fish and Game.

Field trips along the river: A discussion of where, and when, and what kind of trip or trips took place. Either 2 or 4 trips (each bank, each town individually) will be scheduled. Potential dates would be Saturdays in September or October: Sept 10, 17; Oct 1, 8, etc. September 24 is currently set aside for the pontoon boat tour. It was decided to try to settle on dates via e-mail. Potential sites in each town were discussed, among them were
Merrimack: Depot Street, Thornton's Ferry, Horseshoe Pond (George will lead)
Litchfield: Morris Falls, Wilson's Landing, Parker Park, hatchery land
Hudson: Furnace Brook, Executive Drive region
Nashua: Boat ramp, confluence of Nashua River (Karen will lead)

Local Updates: None.

NRPC Involvement in LMRLAC: Danielle indicated that there is funding for her to attend LMRLAC meetings only if the corridor management plan is being discussed at the meeting. George indicated it's his understanding that DES plans to resume funding for LAC staffing again next year.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 25, at the library in Merrimack. Bring calendars to be able to settle on final dates for tours.

Directions:

The Merrimack Library is on the DW Highway (old Rte 3) on corner of Baboosic Lake Road, across from the town hall.

>From the south, pass Greeley St traffic lights (where you would get onto the Everett Tpk at Exit 11 and access road to Thorntons Ferry boatramp); pass lights at Shaws Plaza; cross bridge over Souhegan River (where Merrimack Village Dam is located). Go to traffic light with Mobil gas on left. Turn left (Baboosic Lake Rd). Turn right immediately into library parking lot. Klump Room is downstairs in library on left.

>From north: Pass traffic light at post office/Dunkin' Donuts; Go to next light (at Baboosic Lake Rd). Turn right. Turn right immediately into library parking lot. Klump Room is downstairs in library on left.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
Secretary