

**LMRLAC – September 25, 2008**

**LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**September 25, 2008**

**Members:**

✓ = present

- Bob Robbins (Chair) – Hudson
- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Vice Chair) -- Nashua
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) -- Nashua
- Glenn McKibben (Treasurer) – Litchfield
- 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 7:05pm in the east wing downstairs at the Nashua Public Library.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the August 28, 2008 meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Old Business**

**Membership**

Kath, Karen, and Jim briefly discussed membership status of current members. Kath indicated that Cynthia Ruonala had informed Kath that she was not interested in reapplying and her membership has expired. Kath and Karen will check their files to check on the membership terms for Ray Peeples and Stan Kazlouskas.

Members also briefly discussed the continuing issue of how to recruit new members. Membership has been mentioned at the Corridor Management Plan presentations. Bob was asked at the Litchfield presentation about Litchfield review of the plan. Bob pointed out that LMRLAC does have some Litchfield representation but he also put in a plug for membership at that time.

**Corridor Management Plan**

**Nashua Planning Board Presentation**

Kath summarized LMRLAC's presentation to the Nashua Planning Board on September 11. Bob gave the presentation and fielded several questions. Kath stated that Bob's presentation was well done and well received. Kath also mentioned that Lucy St. John was in attendance at the meeting, and she commented that the plan includes some regulatory items that Nashua probably will feel are already adequately addressed in Nashua. The tentative plan is to return to the Nashua Planning Board before the end of the year.

Kath and Karen acknowledged that Minda provided the projector and computer and coordinated setup with Lucy.

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### **Merrimack Planning Board Presentation**

Kath will touch base with George and either George or Kath will follow up by contacting the Merrimack Planning Board to set up a date to present the Corridor Management Plan at an upcoming Merrimack Planning Board meeting.

### **Hudson Planning Board Plan Status**

Jim mentioned one Hudson Planning Board member is still going through and comparing the Corridor Management Plan to Hudson's Master Plan. This summary will be reviewed at an upcoming workshop. Jim will make sure a copy of the minutes from that workshop gets to LMRLAC members when they are made available.

### **Hudson Projects from August LMRLAC Meeting**

Jim summarized the status of the three plans LMRLAC reviewed and provided comment on at its August 28, 2008 meeting.

Jim stated that the O'Loughlin plan was approved. The O'Loughlin plan on Baker Street in Hudson is not on the Merrimack River, but is within the quarter-mile corridor.

Jim mentioned that the Fleury Estates plan has not gone to the Hudson Planning Board yet. Fleury Estates abuts the Merrimack River on the Hudson/Litchfield town line and includes a wetland crossing as well as river frontage.

Jim indicated that the Lindquist plan was approved at the Hudson Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, September 24. He stated that there was discussion and feedback about the trail easement. For the new Lot 8 on the plan, the easement was moved to the top of the bank. For Lot 6, which is the lot where the Lindquists live, the easement is adjacent to the river.

Members briefly discussed the comments and discussion at the August meeting, and how the comments initially submitted for Fleury Estates applied to all three projects. Members considered this set of projects a template for working with a Planning Board for reviewing and providing comments on projects adjacent to the river.

Jim mentioned that there was information presented at the meeting about existing pedestrian easements along the river. There was a map on which easements were shown to the north of the Lindquist project, but not adjacent to it. The information presented also indicated that this section of the bank may not be conducive to a trail right by the river. Jim will review what was in the Hudson review packet for pedestrian trails information and will send the information to Kath. Kath will contact Minda on the status of the NRPC Recreational Trails Plan.

Kath praised Hudson for requesting the trail easement for the Fleury and Lindquist projects. This led to a discussion of future options when the Heritage Trail segment in Hudson actually gets built. At that time, perhaps there would be an opportunity to renegotiate with future owners on location of the trail easement or even to pursue outright purchase of some properties as needed. Members agreed that putting together a trail of this nature is incremental and takes time.

Jim mentioned that a proposed development in the north part of Hudson along the river, Sparkling River, includes a provision for an emergency boat access easement. Jim summarized the location as a good place for a boat ramp, although there would be a brook crossing needed for the access. Kath asked whether the ramp would be available for public access, perhaps for cartop boats. Jim indicated that would not be likely; the condo association was willing to allow an emergency access only and not a public access.

## **New Business**

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### **Hudson – Spire Semiconductor**

LMRLAC received information that Spire Semiconductor applied to renew its hazardous waste permit to treat the following prior to its discharge into the Hudson sewer system: photolithography developer and rinse waters; acid-based etchants and rinse waters; ampoule/furnace tube cleaning wastewaters; labware cleaning wastewaters; and drum cleaning wastewaters. After a brief discussion, members agreed that there is no comment necessary from LMRLAC on this permit modification, but that LMRLAC does appreciate the notification.

Kath suggested LMRLAC consider requesting that Steve Couture give a brief presentation sometime in the future on the basics of sewer discharge. The purpose for this presentation would be for LMRLAC to understand, from a process engineering standpoint, how to determine the impacts of increased discharge. In this case, it would help LMRLAC understand whether Nashua can handle the increased discharge – since Hudson sewer goes to the Nashua treatment plant.

### **Elections**

Members agreed to postpone elections to the October meeting.

### **Nashua – Rotary Common Letter of Support**

Kath summarized the location of Rotary Common – a 2-acre parcel of land on Main Street in Nashua, across from the Globe Plaza. Salmon Brook runs through the site, and the City now owns the land. With financial support from the Nashua Rotary Club, Nashua is in the process of transforming Rotary Common into open space with acknowledgement of the historic and industrial significance of the site.

Kath summarized a conversation she had with Kathy Hersh, Nashua Community Development Director. Nashua is seeking a grant from the NH State Conservation Committee toward Rotary Park improvements. The City of Nashua asked if LMRLAC would be interested in providing a letter of support for Rotary Common. Kath discussed the possibility of removing the dam on the site, and Kathy replied at the time that removal of the dam would take away the water feature of the park.

Kath drafted a letter of support and e-mailed it to LMRLAC members earlier in the week, looking for feedback. The draft letter includes the sentence “While beyond the scope of the current project we encourage the city to continue to explore the feasibility and possible benefits of dam removal.” Karen and Jim agreed that the sentence puts LMRLAC on record as being interested in and supportive of exploration of dam removal, and support leaving the sentence in unless it would in some way jeopardize funding for the project. Kath will contact Lucy St. John to learn more about concerns the city has with that part of the letter.

Members noted that NRPC is in the process of moving to their new offices in Merrimack. Karen offered to take a look at LMRLAC letterhead to see whether it can be easily modified with the new NRPC address.

### **Local Updates**

#### **Merrimack Dam Removal**

Karen mentioned having checked out the web site with daily pictures of the dam area during the removal process (Website: <http://www.earthcam.net/users2/interface.php?i=0&id=2015&projectid=1308&clientid=951&tab=default>.)

Kath mentioned she had been up to see the dam at least once during the removal process and marveled at the equipment being used and its operators.

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Kath mentioned a bacteria study taking place on the Souhegan, studying TMDL (total maximum daily load). She understands that a graduate student, she believes from BC, is studying the breach and documenting its effects on things including sediment and mussels.

### **Nashua River Water Chestnut Removal Project**

Kath mentioned how the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) received \$300,000 for mechanical harvesting of water chestnut in the Nashua River above the Pepperell Dam in Massachusetts. Roughly 50 acres were harvested this year. Kath has been in contact with people at both the city and state level, bringing up the idea that Nashua could look into treating its water chestnut infestation near Mine Falls Park. Kath had spoken with Amy Smagula at DES, who mentioned there is a large infestation in the river west of Nashua North High School. They are looking into chemical treatment for that infestation. This topic is of interest to LMRLAC to prevent the spread of water chestnut into the Merrimack.

### **Miscellaneous**

Kath reminded members of the upcoming watershed conference on November 15 in Concord. Kath mentioned that we should make sure to set aside one copy of the updated Corridor Management Plan at the October meeting to take to the conference as a display copy.

Members briefly discussed plans for future meetings to start going through the plan to come up with project ideas and priorities. Members agreed that this can also be a new membership recruiting tool since pursuit of specific projects would be a way to gain members who are interested in those specific projects.

Meeting adjourned 8:10pm.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, October 23, in the east wing downstairs in the Nashua Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Archambault  
secretary