

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 23, 2004

Members:

- ✓ = present
- ✓ Will Jewett – Litchfield
- ✓ Glenn McKibben (Treasurer) – Litchfield
- ✓ Ray Peeples – Litchfield
- ✓ George May (Secretary) - Merrimack
- ✓ Bob Robbins (Chair) – Hudson
- ✓ Rick Maddox – Hudson
- ✓ Stan Kazlouskas – Hudson
- ✓ Jim Barnes – Hudson
- ✓ Patrick Tate – Hudson
- John Mitterholzer – Nashua (2)
- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Vice Chair/Public Relations) -- Nashua

Others:

- ✓ Karen Archambault – Nashua ConCom

Chairman Bob Robbins called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm in the NRPC Conference Room after members returned from a 3:30-7:00pm boat trip on the Merrimack River. It was noted that a quorum was present.

The August minutes were approved as printed.

Discussion of boat trip: Several members noted how beautiful and peaceful the river is and how beautiful the day was. Perhaps we could invite legislators and others to some sort of yearly event (luncheon/boat trip). There was good press coverage and Rick took many photos. Kathryn will send a letter on letterhead to Tom Burke thanking him for the boat trip. Also two wetland and SPA violations were noted along Hudson shore. Rick will check on them, but it was suggested that DES should be involved too.

Old Business

- Bob noted that the grant for the survey has been submitted but could take awhile before we receive it.
- The Development Review Checklist is a work in progress. We will use the checklist to review plans and will modify it as seen fit before we distribute it.
- Trailer parking lot at Anheuser-Busch in Merrimack: Motion made and passed that Bob will write them a letter saying that while their plan may meet minimum standards, we would expect them to be a leader in LID and that we would be glad to work with them in including LID in their master plan for future development.
- Widening of Rte 102 in Hudson: Bob distributed the letter from NH DOT rejecting our requests for improvements to the project. Rick will talk to folks in Hudson to have the town erect a sign designating Reeds Brook and possibly begin having signs designating other town brook crossings.
- Permit by Notification: Bob and Angie will review any of these projects and comment as necessary. DES will still attend an upcoming meeting to explain our responsibilities regarding these permits.
- We received an email notification and nothing else of a request for a wetlands permit to string an armored cable across the river floor from Litchfield. Ray explained that this was a plan that Verizon had explained to the Litchfield ConCom and that there were no problems with it. They will hand dig a trench on the river bank and sink the cable alongside an existing cable. There is no impediment to navigation. Based on this it was decided to ignore the notification and let it be granted by default. After some discussion it was decided that Bob will forward these email notifications to the members for their input as necessary.

- Water Quality Monitoring: George explained that the regular monitoring program is over for this season but we will continue it again next year. The last test of the year showed excellent results. He distributed the E. coli test results done by the Nashua River Watershed Assn for July and August. Kath read from an Aug 29 Globe article saying that per chlorate was found in drinking water taken from the Merrimack in Tewksbury at double the acceptable levels. MA DEP is testing the river water from the NH border. George said he would try to find out if Pennichuck has found it.

New Business

- All of the presentations scheduled for planning boards in the various towns have been cancelled except for the Nov 16th one in Merrimack. Bob and Angie will work on the presentation and have it ready at the Oct 28th meeting of the LAC. We were on the Litchfield PB agenda for Sept 21 according to Ray, who was there. Glenn will check to make sure we are not on their agenda for Oct 19. Kath will set a Jan date for Nashua some time in November. The Nov 16 presentation in Merrimack still is scheduled and will be our first presentation. Ray said that we should really be making our presentations to ZBAs as the PBs already know what needs protection, but the ZBAs override good planning.
- There was discussion about getting some of our thinking onto local cable TV channels.
- Bob noted that Citigroup offers a \$500 grant to NGOs that employees work for. He will explore this further.
- Kath passed around several flyers that we should get in bulk for distributing at meetings and presentations.
- Kath noted the upcoming NH Watershed Conference on Sat, Nov 13. Several members have attended in the past and encouraged all members to attend. George will email members with information about the conference.
- The upcoming Sunday, Oct 3, canoe trip from the newly improved Depot Street access was noted. The dedication and speeches begin at 9am and will be followed with the canoe trip to the Greeley Park access. George and Bob have boats that members and others may borrow if needed.
- Ray noted that the Litchfield boat ramp that has been on the table for as long as anyone can remember is being looked at again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George May, Secretary