

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 27, 2005

Members:

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

Others:

- ✓ Angela Rapp – NRPC
- ✓ Homeowners from Horseshoe Pond: Russ Schneider, Rose Arthur, Kareen Dunn, John McDonald

Chairman Bob Robbins called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in the NRPC Conference Room. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed.

The next meeting will be on February 24 and Kath will arrange for a meeting place other than NRPC as Angie will not be present. (**NOTE: THE MEETING WILL BE AT NASHUA'S CHANDLER LIBRARY ON SOUTH MAIN ST ACROSS FROM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**)

The engineer and representative of the developer applying for Site Specific permits for a 61 unit elderly housing complex and for construction of five ballfields and a Dredge & Fill permit on the Manchester YMCA/ Rev. Wright property in Merrimack presented the projects and answered questions for all those present. The developers seemed to agree to remove a snow storage area adjacent to Naticook Brook, to attempt to use LID, and to provide an easement with markers to protect buffers. Abutters were concerned with flooding, protection of the marsh, concerns about the Superfund site, concerns for Horseshoe Pond, and concerns about pollution from construction equipment. They had reservations about where the high water mark was and therefore the SPA boundaries. They presented a USGS map taken at high water showing different boundaries than those shown on the developer's plans. For the Site Specific for the elderly housing the LAC voted to request that DES make a determination of the proper high water mark before going ahead with the project; further a swale should be constructed along Naticook Brook, only low phosphorus fertilizers should be allowed, the snow storage area should be eliminated, and LID practiced. For the Dredge & Fill the LAC voted to ask that all construction be done at low water, that proper erosion controls be present, and that a certified wetlands scientist monitor the permit. For the Site Specific for the ballfields the LAC voted to ask that no pesticides or chemicals be used at all, that slow release fertilizer be used on the area beyond the no-fertilizer buffer as almost all is within the 250' setback, and that permeable pavers be used for the parking area. Further the LAC asked that signs be erected specifying the fertilizing/spraying/SPA requirements.

A motion was made to accept our grant and letter/form sent to DES. Passed.

Site Specific for Hampshire Chemical: A motion was made to request a Dredge & Fill because of the location adjacent to a prime wetland. Passed. Kath will write this letter.

Site Specific for 42 unit elderly housing in Litchfield: The LAC was concerned about Watts Brook and asked that no cutting at all take place on steep slopes along the brook and that all cutting be minimized throughout the project. We would like to see an open space easement for the area not occupied by housing. We especially would like to see public easement along the river at least within the 250' SPA setback. Further we would like to see granite markers with affixed plaques to designate and mark the 250' SPA setback along the river in accordance with the present Litchfield requirements.

The LAC voted to sign on to the letter by other LACs requesting the legislature not reduce the 250' setback for spreading sludge. Further discussion of this issue will be placed on the February agenda.

It was reported that nine eagles were seen along the Merrimack last week.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George May
Secretary