

**LMRLAC – August 24, 2006**

**LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**August 24, 2006**

**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  
Ray Peeples – Litchfield  
Stan Kazlouskas – Hudson  
Will Jewett – Litchfield

**Also in attendance:**

- ✓ Danielle Fillis, Nashua Regional Planning Commission

In lieu of a formal August meeting, LMRLAC conducted a tour of river sites in Merrimack of particular interest or concern. The tour started at the Merrimack Town Offices parking lot at 7pm.

The tour first visited the area where Route 3 crosses the Souhegan River by the fire station. George pointed out the Merrimack Village Dam. Phase 2 of a study to remove the dam is nearly complete, and the dam is probably coming down next year. The greatest benefit from removing the dam will be to allow shad to swim up the Souhegan from the Merrimack. The bridge at this site is on the Historic Register. There are also some remainders of the mill which once stood on the land to the east and north of the bridge. The site is now owned by the town of Merrimack.

The next site visited was the mouth of the Souhegan, where it crosses under the railroad tracks and enters the Merrimack. Baboosic Brook empties into the Souhegan nearby as well.

The next site visited was Thornton's Ferry, accessible via an access road that passes under the railroad tracks. Some washout/erosion was visible in the area. The river was quite flat and calm. George pointed out that the river is essentially a lake in this area, that effect being caused by the Boott Dam in Lowell. Naticook Brook empties into the Merrimack nearby. George also pointed out the Horseshoe Pond area (site of significant flooding during the Mother's Day flood this past spring). He also mentioned that there are locks behind the Anheuser-Busch plant, south of Thornton's Ferry.

The tour drove by, but did not stop to visit, Twin Bridges Park. The park is so named for its two bridges over Baboosic Brook. The final stop was Reed's Ferry, where the parking area, paved underpass and boat launch area could be still seen in the twilight. George also mentioned an 8-acre parcel to the north of the site, once set aside for a possible dam across the Merrimack, now owned by the Merrimack River Watershed Council.

The tour concluded about 8:45pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held in the Hunt Room at the Nashua Public Library on Thursday, September 28. Due to the new scheduling policy at the library, the meeting will begin at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Archambault  
secretary