

LMRLAC – June 26, 2014

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 26, 2014

Members:

- ✓ = present

Current:

- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Chair) -- Nashua
- Michael Redding (Vice Chair) – Merrimack
- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) – Nashua
- Jim Barnes (Treasurer) – Hudson
- ✓ Michael Croteau - Litchfield
- ✓ Nelson Disco - Merrimack
- ✓ George May – Merrimack
- ✓ Gene Porter - Nashua

Associate Members:

Mildred Mugica – Nashua

Also in attendance:

Minutes

The minutes from the December 12, 2013 and February 20, 2014 meetings were approved as written.

New Business

Elections

The following slate of candidates was proposed:

Chair	Gene Porter
Vice Chair	Nelson Disco
Secretary	Karen Archambault
Treasurer	Michael Croteau

Members approved the slate unanimously.

After the election, members held a brief discussion on LAC functions – that the LAC is an advisory body which provides comment to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) on Alteration of Terrain, Shoreland, and Wetlands permit applications. The enabling legislation for LACs states that LACs can also provide comment on local permits to member towns.

Kath briefed the members on discussions held at the most recent Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) meeting. RMAC is discussing potential updates to the enabling legislation (RSA-483) for the LACs. She also summarized a discussion about a recent situation where the Ammonoosuc LAC submitted comments on an application, but the comments were not used as input to the permit review. This led to a brief discussion on the review process timeline. In particular, the timeline for LACs to provide comment on Shoreland permit applications can be challenging to meet with a monthly LAC meeting schedule.

Alteration of Terrain Permit Review

Hudson – Sparkling River (file number 20140626-11)

Kath brought a paper copy of an Alteration of Terrain permit for Sparkling River, off Webster Street in Hudson, for phase IV of its development. The application proposes 278,600 square feet of disturbance. Phase IV includes 23 housing units. None of the proposed disturbance is

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within the jurisdictional shoreland. The plan drawings indicated a potential phase V which is adjacent to the river.

The permit for phases I-III, WPS-7062, was granted on 2-16-05 and expired on 2-16-07. Sparkling River had also been discussed at LMRLAC meetings in September 2008; February, May, and July of 2009; and February of 2011. At many of those meetings, a proposed private and emergency access boat ramp on the site was discussed.

Members pointed out that the quarter mile corridor is not indicated on the plans. The plans do include shoreland buffer lines, and a proposed route for Heritage Trail placement on the site.

Members briefly discussed drainage and noted that the plans included information that the infrastructure (rough grading of road and culvert) is already in place.

Gene will draft comments and circulate them for review, providing a 'respond by' date to members; he will then submit the comments to DES. Comments will cover the following subject areas:

- Proposed boat ramp
- Encouraging pretreatment of runoff
- Positive feedback that the Heritage Trail is indicated
- Positive feedback that the plans indicate compliance with shoreland buffers

Members briefly discussed concerns with getting trails along the river. George commented that proposed trails can eventually disappear before they're actually constructed. Gene agreed, stating that the trails need to be designated before the construction takes place.

Members briefly discussed who the planning contact in Hudson is. Karen indicated she wasn't sure whether John Cashell was still the planner. (Mr. Cashell is still the Hudson town planner, confirmed after the meeting.)

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

George mentioned that the Souhegan River LAC (SoRLAC) is planning to hold an invasive species workshop on Thursday, July 24 in Milford. George mentioned that SoRLAC is also planning to conduct an erosion control workshop in the fall sometime. Members agreed to attend the SoRLAC invasive species workshop on July 24 and combine it with the LMRLAC July meeting.

Karen and Gene are not available to meet on the regular August meeting date of August 28. Members agreed to cancel the August meeting. A special meeting will be scheduled if there are any time-sensitive agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Next LMRLAC Meeting

The next LMRLAC meeting will be July 24, 2014, at 7:00 pm at the SoRLAC invasive species workshop in Milford. George will provide details on the location when they become available.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
secretary