

LMRLAC – June 24, 2019

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 24, 2019

Members:

- ✓ = present

Current:

- ✓ Gene Porter (Chair) – Nashua (current term expires Dec 2019)
- ✓ Nelson Disco (Vice Chair) – Merrimack (current term expires 06/21/21)
- ✓ Chris Barrett – Nashua (current term expires 08/22/20)
- Michael Croteau – Litchfield (current term expires 11/08/20)
- ✓ George May – Merrimack (current term expires 06/14/20)

Pending Renewal:

- ✓ Karen Archambault (Secretary) – Nashua (current term expired 08/12/17)
- Christine Dupree (Treasurer) – Hudson (current term expired 11/25/17)
- ✓ Francis Murphy – Nashua (current term expired 02/18/19)

Also in attendance:

Tucker McCarthy, Keach-Nordstrom Associates; Mel's Funway
Roy Creley, Lakes Region Environmental; Comcast
Roland Leduc, Comcast
Jeffrey Sanchez, Arcadis; Comcast
John Macone, Merrimack River Watershed Council

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Gene Porter in the Meeting Room at the Nashua Public Library. It was noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 11, 2019 LMRLAC meeting were approved as submitted.

Current Business

Litchfield: Mel's Funway Park Shoreland Application (File #2019-01534)

Mr. McCarthy introduced himself and summarized the reason for the application. He explained that the applicant is seeking an after-the-fact Shoreland permit for shoreland work discovered during the process of permitting other planned work on the site. The Shoreland violations were in the area of the haunted attractions, which had been permitted in 2017.

Mr. McCarthy explained that the impacts are all within the 150-foot Natural Woodland Buffer, but all beyond the 50-foot Waterfront Buffer. The impacts consist of a path used for hayrides and sleigh rides. He also explained that the buffer has less than 25% impervious cover and therefore the applicant is seeking a waiver for a stormwater plan. Chairman Porter asked about site drainage. Mr. McCarthy replied that he does not know but believes it probably drains directly to the Merrimack River. Mr. Disco commented that there must have been trees cut in order to establish the hayride path.

Mr. McCarthy pointed out that one of the haunted attractions is an airplane, and that DES had requested any such items have all fluids removed.

Mr. McCarthy explained that the plan has been presented to the Litchfield Planning Board and

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has been approved. Mr. Barrett asked about future expansion; Mr. McCarthy replied that there is none planned.

Mr. Disco recommended that LMRLAC's submit a comment to DES about that project, requesting that LMRLAC be notified in advance of any future work within the quarter-mile corridor.

The committee thanked Mr. McCarthy for coming in and discussing the project.

Hudson: Comcast Facility Emergency Generator Fuel Tank

Mr. Creley, Mr. Leduc, and Mr. Sanchez introduced themselves. The site in question is on Executive Drive in Hudson, on which there is an above-ground fuel tank to run an emergency generator. The original permit submittal for the installation occurred in 2014, prior to installation, with comments received from DES; but recent research determined that the permit application had never been approved.

Mr. Sanchez explained that the fuel tank is double walled steel, with leak detection, a 90% high level alarm, and an overfill prevention valve. The site includes a spill prevention and countermeasures plan. The tank is outside the 250 foot Protected Shoreland Buffer.

Chairman Porter asked whether a copy of the project application was available for LMRLAC's review. Mr. Sanchez replied that an electronic copy had been sent.

Chairman Porter stated he would contact DES, indicating that LMRLAC had reviewed the project, and that he would c.c. Mr. Sanchez.

The committee thanked Mr. Creley, Mr. Leduc, and Mr. Sanchez for coming in to discuss the project.

Litchfield: Eversource Upgrade

Chairman Porter explained that he had received a wetland application from Eversource. However, he was notified earlier in the day that the application was sent in error; the impact is outside the quarter-mile corridor.

Region: New EPA Web Site

Chairman Porter and Mr. Macone both attended an EPA webinar earlier in the day. Chairman Porter explained that the Web site is intended to be a 'one stop shop', with several map layers. Chairman Porter commented that EPA is looking for feedback; he had replied that he would like to see trends in nutrient data.

Region: Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC) Intern Project

Mr. Macone explained that MRWC wants to put together a database of all the entities performing water testing in the watershed, and has an intern currently working on the project. Chairman Porter suggested the intern contact EPA. Mr. May asked how to include the Souhegan Watershed Association data. Chairman Porter replied that he will pass along the Web site address with the information.

Mr. May asked whether MRWC would look into sponsoring summer canoe/kayak trips as it had in the past. Mr. Macone replied that MRWC is focusing initially on the water quality data project.

Region: Nylon Corporation of America (NYCOA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Application

Chairman Porter mentioned that the facility, located in Manchester, uses river water for cooling and therefore requires a NPDES permit. He will brief the committee once he has more

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information on the time frame of the permit application and comment period. Members agreed that commenting on the application would be appropriate when the opportunity presents itself.

Hudson: Sparkling River – Boat Ramp

Chairman Porter explained a few residents, who are boating enthusiasts, had started looking into the process of installing a boat ramp at the site, but he has not heard anything beyond an initial contact. Mr. Disco asked about the status of the emergency access ramp. Chairman Porter replied that it's not constructed yet.

Old Business

Nashua: Thoreau's Landing

Chairman Porter explained that there had been clearing at the top of the bank, and Mr. Daly had expressed concern about the clearing. Chairman Porter and the chair of the Nashua Conservation Commission visited the site, and noted that any such clearing should be left three feet high unless the vegetation is invasive species. The matter has been turned over to DES.

Nashua: Greeley Park Boat Ramp Alteration of Terrain Application (File #20190412-061), Shoreland Application (File # 2019-00890), Wetlands Application (File # 2019-00937)

Chairman Porter explained that DES is seeking additional information about the applications, falling into two categories: stormwater management, and the access road. DES had requested additional detail on the access road plan. Chairman Porter will receive a copy of the response that the City submits to DES. Mr. Murphy commented that this is likely to delay or prevent work on the project from taking place this summer.

LAC Appointments

Chairman Porter explained that LACs are shifting to the NH Rivers Council for organization oversight. This means that appointments will be approved by the chair of the NH Rivers Council rather than the DES Commissioner. Chairman Porter also pointed out that Mr. Murphy, Ms. Dupree, and Ms. Archambault are all delinquent in submitting applications for appointment renewal. Mr. Murphy turned his in to Chairman Porter before the end of the meeting.

Upcoming Project and Events

Merrimack: NH Plating Superfund Site EPA Review

Mr. May summarized the status of the site, which he had gathered from the EPA Web site. The site was most recently reviewed in 2017. He quoted from the report that the site is "not hazardous to health or environment" but has restricted use. Sampling continues in the Merrimack River, Horseshoe Pond, and at wells in Litchfield.

NPDES Permit Renewals for Manchester and Nashua WWTF

Chairman Porter mentioned that both the Manchester and Nashua Waste Water Treatment facilities are due for permit renewal within the next year.

Merrimack: Horseshoe Pond Monitoring

This agenda item was largely covered under the NH Plating Superfund site discussion item. Mr. Disco mentioned that Horseshoe Pond receives periodic milfoil treatment. Mr. May indicated Horseshoe Pond is one of the water quality test locations and the results have been good.

Corridor Management Plan Update

Chairman Porter stated that Nashua is preparing to update its Master Plan, and suggested that it might be time for LMRLAC to look into updating the Corridor Management Plan. Chairman Porter will contact NRPC about pursuing grant opportunities for a corridor management plan update.

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Items from the Floor

Chairman Porter commented that he has been boating on the river this season, from Lowell up to the lock (below Cromwell's Falls). He indicated that the entire stretch was passable, with 5-6 feet of depth above Nashua. He also stated there are rocks around Tyng Island and to stay in the middle of the channel there.

Meeting adjourned 8:20pm.

Next LMRLAC Meeting

The next LMRLAC meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 7:00pm at the Nashua Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
Secretary