

LMRLAC – September 27, 2018

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 27, 2018

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)
- ✓ Francis Murphy – Nashua (current term expires 02/18/19)

Pending Renewal:

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

Also in attendance:

Geoff Daly, corridor resident, Nashua
David Jordan, MHF Design
Andrew Smeltz, Nashua Regional Planning Commission

Meeting called to order at 7pm 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 June 28, 2018 LMRLAC meeting were approved as written. The minutes of the August 23, 2018 LMRLAC meeting were approved with updates distributed as of September 12.

Old Business

Hudson: Sparkling River, LLC Shoreland Permit Application (File #2018-01684) and Alteration of Terrain Permit Application (File #20180823-131)

Chairman Porter summarized the project's history. The project goes back 10-15 years and is mostly constructed. The August meeting reviewed the Shoreland Permit application. This meeting is reviewing the Alteration of Terrain permit application.

Mr. Jordan introduced himself. He is the civil engineer on the project and works for MHF Design Consultants. The Alteration of Terrain permit is needed for work in specific portions of the project area: the region near the clubhouse, and reconfigured wetlands to meet current stormwater management requirements. He explained that, in response to the letter of deficiency the project had received, that a design challenge was to modify the 2004 design to meet current Alteration of Terrain standards.

Mr. Jordan first presented the drainage improvements in the clubhouse area. The current design adds a sediment forebay and infiltration basin, plus a treated swale and level spreader. The clubhouse will have a paved parking area.

Chairman Porter asked about salt treatment. Mr. Jordan replied that he understands the

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contractor handling snow removal uses very little salt. He also explained that the clubhouse will not be used much; its primary use will be for community meetings and board meetings. Chairman Porter suggested that snow removal be performed by certified Green SnowPro contractors.

Mr. Disco asked what the clubhouse elevation will be, and where the 100-year flood line is. Mr. Jordan replied that the flood line is at 115 feet and the clubhouse, which is on a knoll, is at 119 feet.

Chairman Porter asked about the status of approvals in Hudson. Mr. Jordan replied that local approvals are all in place.

Mr. May asked whether the drainage is all on-site. Mr. Jordan pointed out one pipe, which is an outlet from a previously designated detention basin and feeds to a wetland. The wetland in turn drains to the Merrimack River.

Mr. Jordan next explained the stormwater management changes elsewhere on the site. He explained that a detention basin will be changed to a series of sediment forebays and treatment cells. They will be lined to prevent untreated water from entering groundwater.

Mr. Jordan explained that the homeowner's association will have responsibility for the maintenance of the stormwater structures. The maintenance schedule includes inspection, cleaning, and monitoring.

Mr. Jordan also pointed out that groundwater recharge will be accomplished by stone drip edges around the foundations, for the new homes not yet built.

Chairman Porter asked about the schedule. Mr. Jordan replied that some work is expected this fall, and the remaining work will be performed in the spring and summer of 2019.

Chairman Porter asked about the designated boat ramp site. Mr. Jordan explained that designating a boat ramp site was one of the conditions required by Hudson for approving the project. He understands that it is primarily for the Fire Department to have access for river rescues. He explained that the easement exists, but that no work is planned under this application. The boat ramp will need its own permitting prior to construction.

Mr. Barrett asked whether there would be public access for the boat ramp site, and Chairman Porter asked whether the streets are public or private. Mr. Jordan explained that there will not be public access, and that the streets are private.

Mr. May mentioned that LMRLAC had previously commented on the trail easement. Chairman Porter responded that LMRLAC needs to approach the town of Hudson if we want a modified route for a trail along the river.

Ms. Archambault asked whether low-impact development (LID) methods had been considered for the parking area near the clubhouse. Mr. Jordan replied that the plans reflect what had been previously presented. He indicated that the soils and drainage in the area are amenable to the use of porous pavers.

Mr. Disco asked about access to the site. Mr. Jordan explained there are two entrances off Webster Street. Two roads within the project have wetland crossings. A wetland crossing for Brackett Lane will be finished next year under an existing permit. For the Leybridge Drive crossing, there is a small wetland and a drainage ditch to cross. Mr. Jordan pointed out that each road is higher than the 100-year flood elevation.

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Chairman Porter asked if there were further phases proposed. Mr. Jordan replied that this is the final phase of the project, with completion expected in the fall of 2019. Chairman Porter asked about Hudson feedback. Mr. Jordan replied that they have been supportive of the project.

Chairman Porter summarized LMRLAC's comments:

- LMRLAC recommends the use of certified Green SnowPro contractors
- LMRLAC recommends porous pavers in the parking area around the clubhouse

Chairman Porter thanked Mr. Jordan for coming in and discussing the project.

Discussion Items

Nashua: Beazer East

Chairman Porter explained that he has received limited responses to his requests for information, either from Beazer or from NH DES, on the status of non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) amounts collected on the site. He explained he has an upcoming conference call with Beazer representatives to arrange for a representative to attend an upcoming LMRLAC meeting.

Chairman Porter stated he was on the river Wednesday and the site work looks complete when looking from the river. He also stated the last biweekly report on the DES Web site indicated completion is expected by the end of September. However, the report does not include data on NAPL sampling. Mr. Murphy asked if Chairman Porter could re-send the link to the reports.

This led to a brief discussion on some details of the project. Chairman Porter commented that the former Mohawk Tannery site (on the Nashua River in Nashua) currently plans a similar encapsulation technique for its contaminants.

Mr. Daly stated that he has seen a sheen on the Merrimack River which would indicate that NAPL is still flowing into the river. He saw this on a day when the water level was low. Chairman Porter replied he did not see such an indication when he was on the river Wednesday; the water level was high that day.

Nashua: Greeley Park Boat Ramp

Chairman Porter explained he attended a public meeting on September 26 about the project. The planned parking lot will be sized for 12 boat trailers and 12 cars for car-top boats, with room for expansion in the future if usage warrants. The access road will be shorter and straighter than the current one. The project also includes improvements to the boat ramp, and an ADA-compliant loading platform at the top of the ramp. This loading platform will be the first of its kind in New Hampshire. The current access road will remain for emergency vehicle access. The project does not include lighting. The project is expected to be completed about a year from now.

Merrimack/Litchfield: Pennichuck Water Expansion Project (Shoreland File #2017-00449, #2017-02197; Dredge and Fill #2017-00386, #2017-02305)

Chairman Porter explained that the pipe work is completed and it will be connected by the end of October.

Merrimack: Flatley Mixed-Use Project

Chairman Porter asked whether the town of Merrimack had approved all phases of the project. Mr. Disco replied that the town approved four residential buildings. The plan for the fifth building would also bring in commercial development, which would require a review.

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Mr. Daly explained it is his understanding that the state permits ran out on the project, and that new ones are being sought. He also stated the project required new groundwater quality data, and that the development has encroached on Dumpling Brook.

Mr. Disco took a note to investigate the matter further with the town of Merrimack.

Region: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contamination

Chairman Porter led a brief discussion on the level of jurisdiction LMRLAC has regarding the issue. The discussion included comments about the recent dye test at the Saint-Gobain site, and an upcoming presentation and meeting in Merrimack. Chairman Porter will contact the Rivers staff at NH DES for guidance.

Membership

Chairman Porter encouraged the Litchfield and Hudson representatives, in particular, to look for opportunities to recruit additional representation from those towns.

Items from the Floor

Mr. Daly asked about the status of a gas pipe line which is planned to run under the river near the Nashua-Merrimack town line. He explained the installation has crossed Concord Street, near the Pennichuck treatment plant. He understands that they plan to bore under the river to install the 16" pipe. Chairman Porter took a note to investigate the gas pipe project further.

Mr. Daly mentioned the legislation designating a portion of the Nashua River as a Wild and Scenic River. Chairman Porter replied that he had attended the press conference on September 20 in Groton, Massachusetts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Next LMRLAC Meeting

The next LMRLAC meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 7:00 pm at the Nashua Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Archambault
Secretary