

DRAFT
LMRLAC Meeting Minutes – 24 February 2005
Hunt Room, Nashua Public Library

Attendees:

Karen Archambault	- Nashua
Sharon Akers	- Merrimack
Stan Kazlouskas	- Hudson
Will Jewett	- Litchfield
Jim Barnes	- Hudson
Bob Robbins	- Hudson
George May	- Merrimack
Kathryn Nelson	- Nashua
Patrick Tate	- Hudson

Guests:

Linda Bretz	- Nashua (Nashua Conservation Commission Chair)
Sandy Crystall	- DES

Meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm by the chair. A quorum was noted as present. Review of January's minutes was deferred until the Secretary's arrival.

Sandy Crystall from Department of Environmental Services was present to give a presentation and to distribute some handouts on the Permit by Notification (PBN) process. Highlights from the presentation and attendant discussion included:

- a review of wetland values, jurisdiction, identification
- question about high water mark for e.g. Horseshoe Pond. Sandy replied that there's a list of public waters available under the water body query under Shoreland Protection on the DES Web site
- for rivers, high water mark is generally mean high water (marks on rocks, trees, etc)
- discussion on determination of top of bank – e.g. Merrimack River top of bank is probably 'top of shelf', even though in spring or during a major storm the shelf is underwater; Sandy encouraged feedback to the Wetlands Bureau to request better definition of top of bank
- Bob asked about prime wetlands designation – Sandy indicated that (a community) would need to come up with a list based on function or value – objective criteria needed – the list can't be arbitrary
- Hydric soils can last for many years after the hydrology or wetland plants have gone. Research is necessary in that case to determine/document why the other criteria are not met (for wetlands designation). Section F in the Corps (Army Corps of Engineers) manual offers guidance on delineating disturbed sites
- Activities regulated in DES jurisdiction: dredge, fill, construction. No exemption for hand tools. You can plant wetland vegetation to enhance a wetland without a permit
- If one can make a wet area dry (due to time of year or use of a coffer dam, etc), one can sometimes reduce a project to a minor or minimal impact
- PBN details:
 - Conservation Commission must arrange with Town Clerk to catch a PBN to avoid an automatic work start
 - Can search for applications by town on DES Web site
 - Any questions/recommendations for form changes – let Sandy know
 - PBN cannot be used within .25 miles of a designated river (among other things) – therefore, PBN doesn't apply to LMRLAC
 - Permits must be posted in a visible location, so people don't have to trespass to see the permit
- Website: www.des.gov/wetlands
- E-mail address: wetmail@des.state.nh.us

Sandy's presentation concluded at 8:40 pm.

January's minutes were discussed. One change was recommended to change Angie's last name from Rapp to Vincent. Jim made the motion to accept the minutes of 1/27/05 as amended, Sharon seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be at NRPC in March (March 24). But DES will not be funding NRPC and March is likely to be LMRLAC's last meeting at NRPC. Angie will support changes to the corridor plan.

Local Updates:

- Bob asked if the secretary could keep record of those not in attendance to keep track of such things as consecutive absences.
- After a brief discussion of John Mitterholzer's status, Kath made the motion to remove John from the member list for purposes of a quorum. Stan seconded, motion passed. It was noted that the by-laws do address the removal of a member for lack of attendance. DES has to actually remove the member, but LMRLAC can remove the member for quorum purposes.
- Reminder of next presentation: in Hudson Wednesday, March 2, 8pm, to the Planning Board.
- Discussion of a new meeting place: since the Chandler Library may be closed for a while, members were asked to check in their respective towns for meeting space
- Angie is no longer the point person to pick up plans to make them available for meetings.
- More administrative work will be required by members: writing letters, filing. LMRLAC may get to keep file cabinets at NRPC. The group may need a corresponding/recording secretary.
- On 24 March, there's a meeting with Angie relative to the corridor management plan. An outline will be available.

Motion to adjourn by Sharon, seconded by George; meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Prepared By:
Karen Archambault