

LOWER MERRIMACK RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 24, 2005

Members:

- ✓ = present

- ✓ Bob Robbins (Chair) – Hudson
- ✓ Kathryn Nelson (Vice Chair/ Public Relations) -- Nashua
- ✓ George May (Secretary) - Merrimack
- Glenn McKibben (Treasurer) – Litchfield
- ✓ Cynthia Ruonala – Nashua
- ✓ Jim Barnes – Hudson
- ✓ Karen Archambault -- Nashua
- Patrick Tate – Hudson
- Ray Peeples – Litchfield (excused)
- Rick Maddox – Hudson
- ✓ Sharon Akers – Merrimack
- Stan Kazlouskas – Hudson (excused)
- ✓ Will Jewett – Litchfield

Chairman Bob Robbins called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm in the Green Room (after everyone found it) in the Chandler Library, Nashua. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed.

Bob summarized the need for members to do everything as Angie is no longer available as general staff to the committee. We need to use more email contact and we need point members to get the plans to be discussed from each of the towns: Will for Litchfield; Cynthia for Nashua; Sharon for Merrimack; and Jim from Hudson. For example, the Anheuser-Busch request for a permit to the Merrimack Planning Board (see below) expected an answer by March 4. Bob called to request additional time (which was granted and we responded on the 3/29). The PB asked us for an opinion as we have requested and yet we couldn't respond timely. So this process needs to be addressed. Thinking is that we should have the planners email the LAC contact (above) so he can pick up the plans, get them to the chair (Bob), who will distribute them by email if necessary for timely action.

Management Plan: the Hudson presentation went well. They wanted to know how to get the process implemented (see above). Kath reported that the special MP committee that was to have met this afternoon was cancelled as Angie was sick.

Grant Update: the check's in the mail for the landowners' survey. Bob asked George to respond to Citigroup to get the \$500 grant for Bob's participation.

It was thought that we might ask the Nashua trails person to speak to us about parking areas (LID).

Bob appointed Cynthia and Kath to the Nominating Committee to come up with a slate for the next year. They are to report in June.

Anheuser Busch: (see above) A-B requested a permit from the Merrimack PB to construct a wastewater pretreatment system behind their plant. Sharon has reviewed the plan and noted that the CC liked the plan. LAC will respond with concerns for the river – i.e.,: will anything be visible from the river? Will there be noise at the river? Will methane be used and how often will it be burned off? (note there will be a 24' plume of gas being burned off). We suggest screening

as necessary, painting the tanks to camouflage them, and containment in case of an accident. We also suggest a management plan in case of an accident. Will there be any odor? What is the distance to the river and does it comply with the SPA?

Bob noted that the Litchfield elderly housing requests that we made were all agreed to by the developer even though DES said that they didn't have to. He pointed out that our requests do get heard and do make a difference. "People are listening."

Hampshire Chemical: Kath noted that part of the project there will require a Dredge & Fill as we requested previously. Kath will write to them.

Meetings: Will asked that the LAC meet in the various towns rather than always meeting in Nashua. The April 28 meeting, however, will meet in the Hunt Room of the Nashua Public Library.

Kath noted that a number of eagles have been spotted in the habitat along the river this winter.

Meeting adjourned promptly at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,
George May
Secretary