

# Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee Meeting

March 25, 2003 - 7:00 PM

## Nashua Regional Planning Commission

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### Present:

Angela Rapp - NRPC  
Will Jewett - Litchfield  
Glen McKibben - Litchfield  
Ray Peeples - Litchfield  
George May - Merrimack  
Mike Grunder - Hudson

### I. Updates

- Depot Street  
The contract has been submitted to DES. Governor and Council will vote on it on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### II. Regional Environmental Planning Program (REPP) - Identify Lower Merrimack River Corridor Conservation Priorities (see attached)

Angie introduced the project. The last REPP plan can be found online at [www.nashuarpc.org/envplanning/repp.htm](http://www.nashuarpc.org/envplanning/repp.htm). The committee reviewed the priorities identified in the REPP Plan from 2000. Angie asked the members to update the committee on the status of the ones identified in the last plan and identify new potential new parcels.

Hudson - Mike Grunder asked who owns the parcels that Hudson identified (TM 13-8 and 23-4). He will research.

Merrimack - George identified several parcels that he would like to see included in Merrimack. One is the Harcross site on Daniel Webster Highway. It is a contaminated site which is in the process of being cleaned up. It sits on both the Souhegan and Merrimack Rivers and would provide great access to the rivers. The other parcel is across the street next the strip mall on DW Highway. It would be a great connection on the south side of the Souhegan River to the Town Center.

Litchfield - The two largest parcels identified in the last REPP plan have been sold to the Wilsons. They are still being farmed, however. There is still hope to preserve them. Another parcel Ray suggested is located south of the McElwain Agricultural Preservation. It is used as a boat ramp and could be the start of protecting an entire corridor of land along the east bank of the Merrimack River in Litchfield. M-3 and M-4 identified in the previous REPP plan have conceptual plans for an elderly housing development. This will most likely come before the Committee because of setback issues.

Nashua - no one from Nashua was present to discuss the Beazer site or additional sites.

### III. Brainstorming Future Projects

The group discussed the possibility of obtaining a Small Education and Outreach Grant from DES to make four display boards to put in town halls, libraries, etc. in the Lower Merrimack River Corridor. Glen reported that his company uses Skyline to make displays like this. He is getting cost estimates in the mail and will bring them to the next meeting.

The committee needs to decide: 1) what the message on these boards will be; 2) who will write the grant; 3) should the group make the displays or have them made; 4) how much money will be spent; 5) where will the money come from up front to buy supplies or pay someone to make the displays; 6) should there be a combination of displays and literature produced with the grant money.

Ideas brainstormed were: 1) Ask for \$2,000 from DES from Small Education and Outreach Grant and get four displays made; 2) Pay to have four displays with different themes; 3) Buy supplies (foam board,

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photo paper, etc.) and make the displays, using the rest of the money for literature and a PowerPoint presentation like the one that Ray Peeples made; 4) make the displays interactive.

For the next meeting the group needs to research and think about content for the displays and the costs associated with making the displays from scratch or paying someone to make them.

#### IV. **Review of the By-Laws**

Because of time restraints, the committee was not able to fully discuss this issue. However, it was decided the Angie will compile some suggested revisions to the Isinglass By-laws and send out to the committee. These will go out with the next agenda. **(attached)**

#### V. **Updates**

George May informed everyone that the Merrimack River Watershed Council has published their annual canoe trip guide. The LMRAC will be leading a trip on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The schedule is available at NRPC and on the MRWC website at [www.merrimack.org](http://www.merrimack.org).

Mike Grunder reported that the Friends of Hudson Natural Resources have sent out letters and a magnet to all of the residents living in the Robinson Pond Watershed in Hudson. The flyer educates landowners about protecting the pond by reducing phosphorous and also defines the watershed limits of Robinson Pond. The group received a Small Education and Outreach Grant from DES to develop these letters and send them out.

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