

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee Meeting Approved Minutes Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Lisbon, Littleton, Bethlehem, and Carroll

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Members in Attendance: Michael King, Bill Harris (Haverhill); Rick Walling (Bath), Errol Peters (Landaff); Steve Jesseman (Lisbon), Charlie Ryan, Jessica Willis, Connie McDade (Littleton); Joan Karpf, Leslie Bergum (Carroll)

Nominated Candidates in Attendance: Karen Pearson (Bethlehem), Linda Dowling (Carroll)

Members Absent: Duncan McKee (Lisbon), Marilyn Johnson (Bethlehem)

Guests: Ray Lobdell, CWS

Guest Presentation (4:30 –4:50 p.m.)

Ray Lobdell, CWS is doing a project with ACT on the Ammonoosuc River by Salmon Hole Bridge. They are applying for a DES Aquatic Mitigation Fund Grant to do the restoration in the ice jam area. The berm is gone and the force of the water with ice floes has carved a new channel, creating a 4 ac. island. This location has one of the highest yielding and deepest aquifers in the Ammonoosuc River Valley. It is located upstream of two municipal water supplies of Lisbon and Woodsville. The project will help compensate for impacts, arising upstream along the flood plain in Littleton. The entire island is unstable and thinly vegetated. The plan is to restore the site to a forested alluvial flood plain and do erosion control. Joan, Leslie, Rick, and Karen asked questions which were answered by Ray. Errol talked about the trees standing up to the ice floes. Ray said it will never be agricultural land again; some trees will not survive but others will. The island is shown as a highly ranked habitat on the NH F&G Action Plan. A handout was provided to the members.

Ray requested a letter of support from LAC to accompany application for funding. Members were in favor. Connie will send prepared letter to Ray via e-mail attachment.

Review and Approval of February Minutes

Charlie opened the regular portion of the meeting at 4:50 p.m. Michael made the motion to approve the February minutes; the motion was seconded by Rick. Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Michael provided an update on expenses paid out for Leslie and Jen to attend the DES Watershed Conference on November 20th. The current balance in the account is \$136.00; discussion followed to send a remittance statement for 2010 funding to the BOS of the 7 river corridor towns. Michael will draft the letter; copies to be delivered to BOS by one of each town's members.

Correspondence and Announcements

1. Charlie said that Michael Waddell, nominated from Gorham, was in touch with him, saying he would not be able to attend the March meeting. Connie was asked to send Michael a list of our current members, which she did. She also provided the list to all of the members present at the March meeting.

2. Charlie said he has not received notice that Commissioner Burack had appointed any of the recently nominated candidates as official members. He said to list them as “awaiting confirmation” until notice received.
3. Charlie will request Laura Weit, NHDES Acting Rivers Coordinator, send him the Members Reinstatement Form for members to take to their BOS a couple of months before their terms expired. The first expiration dates come up in October.
4. Charlie provided Connie with a recorder to use for taping the minutes.
5. Connie reminded members to check with their BOS, if they wish to receive the monthly minutes. If so, provide her with your town’s e-mail address.

Incoming Applications

1. Highland Avenue Culvert Replacement, Standard Dredge & Fill Application for Town of Littleton, NH. Application was dated January 27, 2010. LAC Members discussed the project and made comments to be covered in a LAC letter.
2. AHEAD Town & Country Multi-Family Housing Project, 123 Cottage Street, in Littleton, NH, Standard Dredge & Fill Application dated February 15, 2010 was discussed. Members made comments to be covered by a LAC letter.
3. Connie was instructed to include members’ comments in the write-up of LAC’s reviews.
4. Errol suggested we create a short form for this purpose. Rick said the CRJC has a list used for onsite reviews and comments. Rick will get back to us with ideas on what to include on a short form. Connie said she would use the abbreviated e-mail letter format from Laura Weit, which Rick provided her to send out the current reviews.

Old Business

1. Town Issues
 - Old Town Road, Carroll
Leslie discussed the Wetland Letter of Deficiency dated 2/10. Deadlines: March 10/Wetland Scientist and April 10/Restoration Plan.
 - Michael Way, Carroll
Joan discussed letter dated 1/26 to Palmer Group; copy to Paul & Marie McGonagle, Carroll CC, and Horizons. The letter requested more info on 13 items.
 - Update on Bath Ice Jam
Rick and Errol provide update on the tree removal from the river. Root ball remains but expect size of root ball will be diminished as soil washes away.
2. Press Releases on Bath ice Jam and Damage to Two Bridges
 - Rick reported that press releases were published in the Woodsville Trendy Times, the Littleton Courier, and the Caledonian Record. There was an error in the reported weight capacity of the repaired bridge in the Caledonia Newspaper; this information was independently obtained by the reporter and not provided by LAC. LAC keeps the content of e-mail submitted articles on file. Photos used in some of the articles included the one LAC took and 2 courtesy photos provided by Rick.

- Rick suggested asking Andy Tuttle of the Cold Regions Research & Engineering Lab (CRREL) in Hanover to come as a guest to do a presentation at one of our upcoming meetings and invite Ray to attend. Rick will follow up.

New Business

1. Election of Officers

Bill made the motion to re-elect all current officers. Errol said he was in favor of keeping the same people in office. Discussion followed. Connie suggested they go over the duties of the officers in the Bylaws. She asked about subdividing the secretary job into 3 categories: recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and public relations officer for outreach. The public outreach responsibility is listed for a separate officer in the Bylaws. She reported on the number of letters sent out in 2009, including those to the NH Legislature hearings, town hearings, application reviews, DES policy letters, letters of support to organizations, annual reports, and biennial report. Currently, the secretary is responsible for writing up the initial draft of all outgoing mail, reviewed by a team of members before sending. Michael said the Chair should assign the responsibility of clerical duties other than recording secretary duties to be shared by all the LAC members. Joan offered to draft letters on behalf of the Town of Carroll's application reviews. Members were asked if anyone else wanted to run for one of the offices. There were no takers. Each of the current officers was asked if willing to serve for another year; all replied that they would do so. Connie was advised to cast one ballot to follow up Bill's motion. It passed by unanimously to keep the same slate of officers.

2. Bylaws

Bill asked Connie to send him a copy of the ARLAC Bylaws. She was asked to also send a copy to all of the newer members.

Old Business

1. Rick reported on the December 12th USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Workshop he attended on easements. Assistance is available to NH farmers and forest landowners. A handout was provided to all the members.

Adjournment

Rick made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Leslie. Passed. Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade

[Next Meeting Takes Place on Wednesday, April 7, 2010](#)