

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Approved Minutes
Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Lisbon, Littleton, Bethlehem, Carroll, Unincorporated Places
Wednesday, August 4, 2010

Members in Attendance: Michael King (Haverhill); Rick Walling (Bath); Charlie Ryan, Jessica Willis, Connie McDade; (Littleton); Karen Pearson (Bethlehem); Joan Karpf, Leslie Bergum, Linda Dowling (Carroll)

Members Absent: Bill Harris (Haverhill); Errol Peters (Landaff); Steve Jesseman (Lisbon); Marilyn Johnson (Bethlehem); Michael Waddell (Gorham); John Scarinza (Jefferson)

Note: Marilyn Johnson was present for Subcommittee Meeting and Guest Lecture.

Guests in Attendance: Tara Bamford, North Country Council Planning Director
Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator for New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Review and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Ryan opened the meeting at 6 p.m. at the Red Barn @ the Rocks Estate in Bethlehem. Leslie corrected the July minutes to read: “water testing has been done 2 times so far this season. Total phosphorus samples have been collected once so far at the 5 established locations.” Rick made the motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Joan. Passed.

Treasurer’s Report

Michael reported there’s currently \$336.90 in the bank account. To date, Coos County, Bath, Lisbon and Littleton have not paid the 2010 annual public support amount.

Correspondence

1. Announcements and Letters
 - Charlie talked about minute taking, according to New Right to Know Law. Members discussed the provisions. The consensus was to continue writing up draft and approved minutes, as we have been doing.
 - Connie passed around the Municipal EcoLink bulletin/June 2010.
 - Cheryl Jensen sent e-mail about upcoming seep restoration in Bethlehem. Charlie said John Reagan at NHDES, invited LAC members to attend meeting at landfill headquarters on Trudeau Road on Thursday, August 5 at 10 a.m. with plan for attendees to go afterwards to the seep site for an update on the restoration phase of the project.
 - York Land Services notified Charlie shoreline project information/Baier has been sent to LAC, regarding second house on property (not received).
2. Incoming Permit Applications
 - NHDES Shoreline Permit Application File Number 2010-01803/River Road, Bethlehem/Norbert and Pamela Baier that impacts 16,265 sq. ft. for construction of a house, garage, and driveway. Members looked over the application in detail. Questions were raised about connection to sewer versus septic system. Further info needed.
 - NHDES Application/Alteration of Terrain File Number 100629-078 for Lisbon Gravel Pit/Champagne. The packet was made available for Steve Jesseman, Lisbon LAC member to go over the details and communicate with

town officials, if he had any reservations about the project. He did not have an issue with the proposal. The LAC members discussed the hydrologic vibration assessment study and the stormwater management plan. The following recommendations were made: the holding ponds have turbidity guidelines for the affluent, that stormwater runoff plans must be followed post construction and the site monitored because of potential runoff into the river, and LAC receive copies of the NHDES inspection reports. Joan made the motion for LAC to send a letter to the DES, offering the above recommendations with latitude in wordage as advised by Michael; Rick seconded motion. Passed.

Old Business

1. Rick said radio tagged Atlantic Salmon made way over Woodsville Dam.

New Business

1. Rick informed members about Ticklenaked Pond Workshop on Lakeshore Buffer Planting and Rain Barrel Demonstration, taking place 8/7 @ 10AM at Pleasant Valley Campground on Ticklenaked Pond, Vermont
2. Rick inquired about the Regional Impact Hearing/Proposed AoT-Blasting of Ledge at Highland Croft, taking place in Littleton August 10 @ 6 p.m. at the Annex. Charlie and Connie provided information. Following discussion, Connie inquired if LAC wants to make a consensus statement at the hearing or decide not to comment. Rick made the motion that LAC speak about the concerns discussed:
 - Immediate impact to the aquifer
 - Pollution of ground water from residues of explosives
 - Impact to Ammonoosuc River from runoff, entering the river through Dells Brook
 - Monitoring process used to check for leaching of residue into the well and aquifer
 - Other issues, as appropriate

Connie suggested adding Chairman Ryan's statement made at a past hearing, which stated LAC's position better than anything new we could write up as a closing statement. She read the statement, asking Charlie if okay with him. Charlie responded that he said it and meant what he said so we could add those words to our statement to be made at the hearing. Motion was made by Joan and seconded by Rick to incorporate Charlie's statement in body of our comment. Motion passed unanimously. Charlie, Rick, and Jessica had reasons they cannot speak at the hearing. Connie was designated as spokesperson. Members provided her latitude to use Ammonoosuc Watershed Water Resources Map, if needed.

3. Leslie contacted the NHDES and NHDOT to report conditions at Base Road and Dartmouth Brook. High water washed over the road, deep ruts occurred and even the low road shoulder was under water. Safety hazards were also a concern; all the appropriate officials were notified. The July water test at that station had low pH, high turbidity, and low DO. Ted Walsh of NHDES is talking about hopefully deploying Data loggers.
4. Leslie reported that e. coli sampling was done at 4 stations along the river. Erik Bergum took the samples to PS lab in Plymouth. Results were within normal limits.

Adjournment

Joan made the motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting, which was seconded by Rick. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Guest Lecture (7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.)

Presented by Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator for New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Subject: Invasive Aquatic Plants

[The following is an overview. A full copy of the presentation can be obtained by directly contacting Amy Smagula]

Amy reported New Hampshire has 487 aquatic plants, which rivals the Amazon. She explained the characteristics of an invasive plant. Amy discussed emergent, submergent, floating, and algae aquatic plant species, differentiating invasives from noninvasives. The algae diatoms are the most difficult to deal with. She presented an overview of invasive aquatic plants, including Rock Snot Didymo. Up to date no Didymo has been found in the Ammonoosuc, however it is present in the Connecticut River. The floating aquatics discussed included milfoil, fanwort, chestnut, Brazilian Elodea. She passed around the chestnut seed for members to see the triangular shape and rosettes of teeth. Pond weeds were differentiated into harmless and harmful species. Phragmites were discussed. She gave the example that the aquatic yellow iris is aggressive. Hydrilla grows up to 25 ft. long. The water hemlock has needles that are like teeth. Perhaps Elodea, used in aquariums, got into the environment, dumping water out. Fanwort is prevalent in the coastal area, but on the move. The computer graphics showed the different types of fanwort. Milfoil, variable fluffy and Eurasian less fluffy were displayed on screen. She pointed out that the milfoil that naturally occurs is not invasive; it's brown red color and short. Water chestnut is a threat. Extra time was spent on didymo. She said it feels like wet felt and is not slimy. It attaches to rocks via a stalk. It adheres tight as tight can be. Surprisingly, didymo prefers cold water in fast moving stream that has low nutrient value with a pH above 7.5, and not in stagnant water as expected. It can be transferred by felt bottomed fishing wader shoes, bathing suits, water toys, and canoe and kayak bottoms. It is present in the Connecticut River, identical to the didymo in New Zealand. Those are the only two places that currently have this same didymo. There is no known treatment at this time. Copper sulfate has been used in small areas, but it is toxic so usage is limited. Preventive measures were discussed including not using felt bottomed wader shoes, thorough drying of items before going in other waters, washing items in soap and water and drying thoroughly before further use. Dogs can transfer didymo. Need to bathe dog in soap and water between water bodies and allow time for thoroughly drying. Canoes and kayaks should have at least 48 hours drying time after being washed with soap and water. Outreach and public education are important. Discussed LAC members inventorying aquatic plants along the Ammonoosuc River. Could be done by teams adopting sections of the river or in the course of doing water monitoring. Didymo is tan, brown or white. If seen, try to scrape a sample off rock. Can send photo of aquatics or send sample to Amy. Only professional team of experts do treatment of any invasive; herbicides must be EPA approved. There's 100% cost reimbursement for 1st time treated, which goes down to 50% for repeat. There's no money available for control of natural plants. Wetland permits

need to be obtained and only licensed operators can use herbicides. Consider putting educational signs up along the Ammo. Make a plan for doing inventory of aquatic plants.

Meeting ended 8:30 p.m. Weed Watcher Kit was provided by Amy Smagula. Chairman Ryan purchased DES publication, Aquatic Plants and Algae of NH Lakes and Ponds for the LAC attendees.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade

[Next Meeting Takes Place on Wednesday, September 1](#)