

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

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Members in Attendance: Michael King, Bill Harris (Haverhill), Rick Walling (Bath), Errol Peters (Landaff), Steve Jesseman (Lisbon), Charlie Ryan, Connie McDade (Littleton), Marilyn Johnson (Bethlehem), Leslie Bergum (Carroll)

Nominated Candidate in Attendance: Jessica Willis (Littleton)

Absent: Joan Karpf (Carroll)

Guests: Tara Bamford, North Country Council Planner; Rebecca Brown, Executive Director of Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust; Jessica Bunker, Assistant to Rebecca Brown, ACT; Sharon Francis, Executive Director of Connecticut River Joint Commission; and Dr. John Field, Consultant Field Geology Services

Review and Approval of October Minutes

Charlie opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. at the North Country Council. Michael made the motion to approve the October minutes as written; seconded by Leslie. Passed

1. Correspondence and Announcements

- Errol Peters, Landaff's new member was introduced to the group. Connie said Torrey McMillan has resigned. Jessica Willis's nomination form has been submitted to the Littleton BOS. Currently, there are 10 members; quorum is 6.
- Carroll's Town Meeting with Dr. Field takes place 11/05/09.
- Charlie said he received the SOP Changes to the Application Permit Review.
- Charlie received a copy of Ken Kimball's letter to DES, regarding Changes to Stream Crossing Rules. Members were urged to attend the Public Hearing in Lancaster on November 9 or in Plymouth on November 10.
- The Watershed Conference takes place November 20-21. Tara said that both days would be geared to our interests. Jessica and Leslie would like to attend one of the days. Connie inquired if any funding is available to help cover cost of tuition, listed as \$35 for one day and \$50 for 2 days per attendee. Michael said yes. Rick made the motion seconded by Marilyn that LAC members who attend be reimbursed for their tuition costs. The motion passed.

2. Incoming Applications

- Charlie said he just received a DES notice, regarding a Wetland Dredge and Fill Application for Paul and Mary McGonagle in Carroll (Tax Map 207, Lot 20:12). Charlie will phone the DES to request a copy of the application.

Old Business

1. Marilyn updated members about erosion from activity on Stone property near bridge on Route 142 in Bethlehem. Charlie needs to be provided with a copy of DES letter(s) received to date along with the timeline.
2. On October 16th Leslie, Rick, and Connie looked at the Old Town Road site in Carroll, where a recently (?July) installed culvert drains directly into the Ammonoosuc River. They reported on their observations to the LAC members. Michael made the motion that we send a letter to the DES, seconded by Rick.

Passed unanimously. Leslie, Rick, and Connie will draft a letter to be reviewed by Charlie and sent by him to the DES, as soon as possible.

3. Connie reported the Riverwalk Project in Littleton received a DES Shoreland Permit for the proposed walkway located at the edge of the grass buffer area alongside the river in front of the Riverglen. The DOT denied permission for the under bridge walkway due to a bridge issue. The cost for mitigation for the 200' wetland impact along the bank for the under bridge walkway was a second factor that ended consideration. The new plan is for a clearly demarcated walkway to extend to Cottage Street, going up alongside the driveway entrance paved with pervious tiles that have drainage spaces between the tiles to augment drainage.

New Business

1. Sharon Francis introduced Dr. Field, saying he had identified 8 locations as possible restoration and conservation sites. He presented his recommendations to the Ammonoosuc River Assessment Advisory Committee on 9/22/09. Rick was appointed to be LAC's representative on the committee to attend future meetings. Sharon said the purpose of today's meeting was to receive information from Dr. Field for LAC members to select their #1 priority site for restoration.
2. Dr. Field's presentation highlighted the following locations for our consideration:
 - Bretton Woods bank erosion at golf course.
 - Bretton Woods meander and possible avulsion into snowmaking ponds.
 - Twin Mountain: reoccupation of old meander sites along Hwy 302.
 - Bethlehem: sand and gravel deposition above dam site, which impedes fish passage. Dam not in use; owner wants to restart hydro.
 - Littleton: risk of reformation of side channels in developed area.
 - Lisbon: bank erosion at soccer field.
 - Bath: severe constriction upstream causing channel migration and avulsion with mass failure of high bank that threatens Hwy 302
 - Woodsville: flooding and bank erosion caused by flow constriction and straightening.
3. Rebecca talked about ACT's floodplain ecosystem and farmland initiative to identify features within the area of overlap. Co-occurrence mapping will include prime soils and forested wetlands.
4. Discussed need for LAC to identify important areas along the Ammonoosuc River as part of their Management Plan.
5. Connie inquired why Landaff was not listed as one of the 8 areas identified. Dr. Field said it was because such a short distance of the river is within the town.
6. Discussion followed that remediation previously done in Lisbon failed. Michael said restoration of the soccer field was unlikely to get funding. Connie asked Rebecca about enhancement of fish habitat in the Lisbon stretch of the river. Steve reported that when he attended the Lisbon Town Meeting, it sounded to him like town was told they had already been selected for the project. Errol said the Lisbon town wellheads would need protection in any project being done. The Bretton Woods projects also brought discussion. Rick suggested we come up with a list of criteria to help us make the final choice. He said we need a project that is not too big and not too small that gets visibility. Tara inquired about timing for

- LAC to make its recommendation. Sharon suggested we discuss it further at our December meeting. Might be able to get an extension in time.
7. Tara will postpone Sandy Crystall of DES speaking over the phone to us about gold panning until January. Connie said the uncovered items on this month's agenda would need to be postponed to the December meeting.

Adjournment

Steve made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Rick. Passed. Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade

[Next Meeting Takes Place on Wednesday, December 2, 2009](#)