

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

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Members in Attendance: Michael King, Bill Harris (Haverhill), Errol Peters (Landaff), Charlie Ryan, Connie McDade (Littleton), Marilyn Johnson (Bethlehem), Joan Karpf, Leslie Bergum (Carroll)

Absent: Rick Walling (Bath); Steve Jesseman (Lisbon)

Nominated Candidate in Attendance: Linda Dowling (Carroll)

Nominated Candidate Absent: Jessica Willis (Littleton)

Guests: Tara Bamford, North Country Council Planner; Adair Mulligan, CRJC Conservation Director; Jessica Bunker, Assistant to Rebecca Brown, ACT.

Review and Approval of November Minutes

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

Correspondence and Announcements

Linda Dowling was introduced to the group. Connie reported Rick was absent because of a boiler problem. Rick e-mailed his list of comments for the 8 river sites being considered for restoration. Tara made copies of Rick's list for the members.

Incoming Applications

1.

Charlie received a copy of Paul and Mary McGonagle's Wetland Dredge and Fill Application (Carroll). The members felt it would be helpful to know the alternative plans considered and why this plan was selected as the best method. Michael suggested inviting Steve LaFrance of Horizon Engineering and a DES representative to come to LAC's January meeting to do a 30-minute presentation of the engineering perspective of the plan. Errol seconded the motion. Passed. Charlie will invite both guests.

2.

Charlie reported Riverwalk is in the process of redesign.

Old Business

1.

Bethlehem Town Issues

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Mr. Stone did not fill out environmental issues on DES form.

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Bethlehem Planning Board is considering water ordinance (quality and quantity of aquifer ground water). Would require Warrant Article.

2.

Carroll Town Issues

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Linda Dowling asked that a copy of LAC's letter sent to the DES about Old Town Road be sent to the Conservation Commission. Leslie will send it.

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Discussed potential new representative members for LAC from the county.

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Michael will ask for a copy of Gorham County Commission Minutes.

3.

Quorum in LAC Bylaws Put on Agenda for February meeting.

4.

DES Changes to Application Permit Review SOP #801.

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LAC's Subcommittee Policy is in keeping with recent DES changes.

5.

DES Changes to Stream Crossing Rules

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Discussed the two sets of changes. Leslie read letter sent by LAC.

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Charlie questioned if it would be less disruptive to leave culverts in place.

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Errol said the problem is that culverts left in place from logging would then be there for developers to use without applying for a permit to cover the change in usage. There is a difference in culvert for temporary use versus one put in for permanent use. Errol said he always puts in a culvert on the bottom of pole crossings for small streams, minor in and out, or else the dirt trail from pulling tops will create a dam. Errol is on the Timber Harvesting Council. He will report back to us on Council's recommendations.

6.

Discussed HB2 (Letters Sent 4/15 & 4/22/09)

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Errol suggested we check on status of HB2.

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Michael will phone Commissioner Burack.

7.

Biennial Report to Members for Entries

New Business

1.

Discussion of Ammonoosuc River Conservation and Restoration Sites

- Tara asked members for special knowledge they may have about each of the 8 sites. Rick Walling's list was used as a basis to get the discussion going.

- Members were also asked by Tara what they place highest value on such as size and visibility of the project, funding, ecological habitat, public benefits, risk management/hazard mitigation, protect public investments to name a few.

- Adair's notes of technical data taken at the Ammonoosuc River Assessment Advisory Committee Meeting were used as a resource to answer questions. After discussion, members were asked by Tara to identify their two top value items. Tara made a list of each member's two highest priorities. Water quality and habitat seemed to come in on top.

- Adair said CRJC does not have an active application in place to fund doing a restoration project. DES has required completion of the work, which was delayed by excessive rainfall, before the 319-Application can be accepted. All the projects may be considered at one point or another in the future. The question is which project should be done first.

- ACT has submitted an M & E Application to conserve land upstream.

2.

Tara will invite Sandy Crystall of DES to have a phone conference with us about gold panning during the January meeting. Thirty minutes of time will be allotted for phone call. An hour will be set aside to discuss goals of the management plan.

3.

Connie handed out data sheet of 2009 LAC events for member to add their ideas in preparation for writing the 2009 Annual Report. Michael suggested LAC also do a write-up for town reports to be sent to towns in December. Michael said he would do the write-up for the town reports.

Adjournment

Michael made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Errol. Passed. Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade

Next Meeting Takes Place on Wednesday, January 6, 2010