

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Approved Minutes

Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Lisbon, Littleton, Bethlehem, and Carroll

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Members in Attendance: (Haverhill) Bill Harris; (Bath) Rick Walling; (Landaff) Marilyn Booth; (Lisbon) Steve Jesseman, Rosalind Page; (Littleton) Charlie Ryan, Connie McDade; (Bethlehem) Marilyn Johnson

Nominated Candidates in Attendance: (Littleton) Christopher Hodge

Members Absent: (Landaff) Errol Peters; (Littleton) Jessica Willis

Review and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Ryan opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. at the Senior Center in Littleton. Bill made the motion to approve the March minutes, seconded by Rick. Passed.

Addendum to December 4, 2013 LAC Approved Minutes

Haverhill Town Manager, Glenn English sent a message, advising “the proposed egg farm in Haverhill has been relocated to a new site in the southern part of Town, not near any surface water or wetlands. It is in the Aquifer Protection District and will require Zoning Board approval.”

Treasurer’s Report

Jessica provided members with a written report. Balance of \$971.11 remains the same as last month.

Correspondence

1. Announcements and Letters
 - Newly nominated LAC Member, Christopher Hodge of Littleton was introduced and welcomed.
 - Charlie provided Marilyn Johnson with names of potential new LAC member(s) in Bethlehem. Reference: Littleton Courier 4/02/14 article by Joyce and Peter Menard.
 - Marilyn told members about NHDES Public Hearing on April 17th at 6 p.m. at Profile High School in Bethlehem for a Type 1A Permit Application from North Country Environmental Services to add 8.06 acres of landfill footprint, providing 1,903,000 cubic yards of new capacity.
 - Littleton Application/Urban Shoreland Exemption (letter to Town Manager Moody)
2. Incoming Permit Applications
 - NHDOT Dredge & Fill Application/installation of concrete box culvert @ crossing of Palmer Brook under south side of Route 116, Littleton. LAC sent comments for culvert installation, when culvert put in on the north side. No further comment needed.
 - Shoreland by Notification Application from Headwaters Hydrology/LW&L project to take shed down and not replace it; area to be paved with pervious surface (letter sent)
 - NHDOT repaving project 4.9-miles of Route 142 in Bethlehem reported on by Marilyn. She drove along Route 142 (Maple Street) to Wing Road. She saw no signs of the proposed work. Project is not expected to endanger the river. Members decided no comment needed.
 - Public Service Company of NH Minimum Impact Expedited Permit Application, Littleton to do power maintenance and relocate U-199 transmission line that goes along the Ammonoosuc River. Shoreland application will be filed separately.

Members discussed the project. Chris Hodge talked about the PSNH intention to abandon existing transmission line route along the Ammonoosuc River, moving the transmission line to the approved easement location away from the river on the south side. He said the upgrade is needed for the line irrespective of Northern Pass project. Rosalind informed members about the difference between easements and rights of way. "All rights of way are easements but not all easements are rights of way." Marilyn Booth asked Charlie to provide members with a digital copy or CD of the application.

Old Business

- Northern Pass
Connie reported NH residents were recently provided the opportunity to sign a letter to Senator Russell Prescott, Chairman Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to be recorded as supporter of HB569 for the under-grounding of electric transmission as an alternative to overhead transmission lines. The AMC and Forest Society sent an online video to members that ended with request to sign a "Stop or Bury Northern Pass" petition to Governor Maggie Hassan.

New Business

1. Availability of Grant Money
 - Marilyn Booth let members know that PSNH and some other corporations offer funding to volunteer organizations exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501c3 for environmental projects. Connie suggested timing of application would be important not to give appearance of endorsement of the proposed Northern Pass project. Charlie said we could consider this option at time of a future project.
2. Workshops
 - Rick and Marilyn attended the NHDES meeting held in Littleton on March 27 for DES to receive comments on changes to the state's wetland regulations. Marilyn provided Connie with the DES Guide entitled "Wetlands Program Rulemaking and Process Improvement Effort." Rick said emphasis of the meeting was on streamlining the application process and not that much on enhancement. Rick provided comment at the DES meeting about the importance of cumulative effect and mitigation. DES is currently evaluating when mitigation should be required. At present, mitigation is required when wetland impact exceeds 10,000 sq. ft. or stream impacts are greater than 200 linear feet. Most other New England States require mitigation for impacts greater than 5,000 sq. ft. The DES is taking a second look at use of total square feet of impact versus linear foot being the best way to determine mitigation requirement. Stormwater management requirements are currently being evaluated for projects not requiring an AoT permit. DES to consider setting up specific standards to address stormwater management on smaller projects. There was not much discussion on the topic of protection of species and resources.
3. Trout Unlimited
 - Rick plans to attend the TU Meeting on April 3, as the LAC representative.
4. LAC Elections
 - Steve made motion to nominate Charlie Ryan, Chairman; Rick Walling, Vice Chair; Jessica Willis, Treasurer; Connie McDade, Secretary (same as 2013). Motion seconded by Bill. Passed
4. Town Dues

- Bill said it is time for outgoing support letters, asking each town to contribute \$50. Steve made motion, seconded by Bill for Connie to revise the customary letter of request on LAC stationary so it can be provided for members to bring it to their respective towns. Passed. Connie will put the letter together.
5. Volunteer River Assessment Program
- Leslie Bergum let Connie know she will be starting the chloride water testing soon. Bill said he would offer the same service to transport any test samples that require quick delivery. LAC members would like to be notified of the test dates so they could offer to give a hand, as needed. Connie will pass the word on to Leslie, the VRAP Coordinator.
6. LAC Members
- Leslie communicated with Connie about finding resident(s) of Carroll, who would like to serve as a LAC member.
 - Bill said he talked to Haverhill Town Manager Glenn English about need for an additional LAC member to be appointed, representing Haverhill.

Adjournment

Steve made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Rick. Passed. Adjourned @ 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade

[Next Meeting Takes Place on Wednesday, May 7th](#)