

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Approved Minutes

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

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Members in Attendance: (Haverhill) Bill Harris; (Bath) Rick Walling; (Landaff) Errol Peters, Marilyn Booth; (Littleton) Charlie Ryan, Chris Hodge, Jessica Willis; (Bethlehem) Marilyn Johnson; (Carroll) Joan Karpf.

Members Absent: (Lisbon) Steve Jesseman, Rosalind Page; (Littleton) Connie McDade.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Charlie Ryan opened the meeting at 4:37 pm at the Senior Center in Littleton. Joan made the motion, seconded by Bill Harris to approve the June minutes as written; passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jessica informed the Committee there was an additional Annual contribution deposit from Bethlehem of \$50.00. The Balance as of August 6, 2014 is \$1271.11.

Correspondence

1. Letters

- NHDES Commissioner Thomas Burack return letter regarding premature approval of BW project was discussed. Charlie stated that although the letter had no real content there had been big changes regarding dead line dates. Now when they send e-mails out with the apps they include the cutoff date on them. A second e-mail received announced that if the cutoff day ends on a Saturday, they would move the final date back to Friday. They then suggest that comments be in by at least 2 days before the final date. Charlie stated that this new procedure will give the LAC a definitive time to have comments sent and reviewed.
- Letter from Jacquie Colburn was discussed. Charlie had spoken to Jacquie and she informed him that there would be a future meeting with the LAC's to review procedures.

2. Announcements

- There will be a September 3rd meeting.
- Charlie and Errol will not be able to make October's meeting. Rick Walling will Chair.
- Charlie suggested a procedure for times when both Chair and Vice Chair will not be able to attend. In such a case, it was suggested that another long term member run the meeting.

3. Incoming Permit Applications

- NHDES File # 2014-00918 Dredge & Fill. It was noted that only a small portion of the property lied within the quarter mile of the Ammo. It was noted that DES found the app incomplete and requested larger culverts than plans presented as well as photos without

snow covering. Since there were no concerns regarding the River, it was decided that a standard letter for Best Management Plans regarding culverts and stormwater be sent.

- NHDES PBN U-199 PSNH maintenance project and relocation of transmission line. Chris was concerned about the extensive clearing around location of poles. Charlie stated the new poles will be signal steel and that old poles will be left in the ground to minimize disturbance. No concerns regarding project.
- NHDES PBN Glenwood Cemetery pond in Littleton. Chris went down to inspect project and found the pond full of silt. Charlie said they removed the silt to be used as topsoil on the cemetery grounds. Errol thought the project was favorable to the pond in that it acted as a filter collecting the silt. No concerns regarding the project.

Old Business

- Northern Pass. Marilyn stated that it appeared the new energy committee formed was packed with members supporting the efforts of PSNH. She and Charlie stated that in Vermont and Maine the lines were being buried. Charlie believes that there are lines already present that are being underutilized not owned by PSNH. There was a recent protest in Carroll objecting to the project without conditions.

New Business

1. Town Issues

- Planted trees are not faring well at MWR Overlook, Carroll. Joan stated that Leslie also found out that a better type plant should be suggested. The CCC will follow up and keep the LAC posted.
- Chris updated the Committee on the meeting at the bridge regarding the island. Discussion followed. Chris stated the land on both sides of the River and including the island, is owned by Mr. Murro. The property owner had received a permit approval for selective clearing with conditions but apparently did not adhere to the conditions. It had been observed that large machinery had crossed the River and piles of rubbish had been left on the island. Jeffrey Blecgarczyk and Jacquie Colburn were at the site visit. Jessica expressed concerns that the notice of violation's comprehensive restoration request of action was not being adhered to. Chris stated the grid pattern clearing and size of 50 by 50 the owner was to follow wasn't done. Cutting should not go below 4 feet. The owner could cut a natural path around the perimeter but it can't be wider than 6 feet. Chris said a plan to replant shrubs was still required. Jessica expressed disappointment in DES's new requirements from the owner. She questioned whether her efforts and the Committee's efforts were worth anything without DES backing. Marilyn Booth was concerned that this DES non action would set a precedence for future violations on the River. She wanted to know how they justified the change to their original violation requests and what they based their leniency on. Joan made a motion to have Charlie draft a letter to Jacquie expressing the above concerns. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- Chris reported on the electroshock survey of the Ham Branch Tributary in collaboration with Trout Unlimited. He stated that the assessment was very favorable and the streams

were healthy. They were also surprised to find wild rainbow in the tributaries off the Moore Dam. Charlie said the Ham Branch of the Gale River is up for nomination into the Designation Program. Discussion on ACT's efforts to create conservation easements along stream banks and the importance of buffers on the tributaries followed.

- Tara Bamford reported excessive sediment in the Ammo between Bath and Lisbon. Several locations where the sediment was high was identified and possible reasons were discussed including bank erosion but no conclusion to cause was definitive. Bill Harris said the River wasn't very high and they usually get some sand and grit. He brought a sample of the amount of sediment he found in a liter of water and he said it was a finer sand than usual. The amount of sand was quite substantial. He said he never saw that amount of sediment before. He also stated the water was an orange color instead of the usual brown when sediment is high. He had to shut down for the day. Rick suggested Bill write up a report to document the incident and save the sample of sediment. A copy of the report should be sent to Tara and the Committee.

2. Other

- 2 drowning in upper Falls was confirmed through TV and newspaper articles.

Adjournment

Marilyn Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jessica. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

Respectfully submitted by Joan Karpf
Next meeting September 3, 2014