

Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee(LAC) Work Session Notes

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

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Meeting called to order: 4:30 pm at the Senior Center in Littleton.

Members in Attendance: (Haverhill) Bill Harris; (Lisbon) Steve Jesseman; (Landaff) Marilyn Booth, Errol Peters; (Bath) Rick Walling; (Littleton) Charlie Ryan: Chairman, Connie McDade; (Bethlehem) Marilyn Johnson; (Carroll) Joan Karpf.

Members Absent: (Lisbon) Rosalind Page; (Littleton) Chris Hodge: Vice Chairman, Jessica Willis.

Review and Approval of November Minutes: Bill Harris requested a change to the minutes. He requested that the statements " It appears FERC is going to take control over all the dams on the Ammonoosuc. They are in the process of reclassifying all the dams." found in the second to last paragraph of the minutes, be retracted. After further discussion, Marilyn Johnson motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Connie seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie presented the Budget. The balance as of December 2, 2015 is \$1,403.35. He also stated that Bethlehem and Littleton have paid their 2016 dues. Steve stated that the Lisbon letter had been delivered as did Haverhill's letter. With no further discussion, Bill motioned to accept the report. Steve seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

LAC 2016 Budget: The 2016 budget was discussed with the following decisions made: Administrative: \$75, Education and training \$25, Outreach \$25, VRAP \$75, Miscellaneous \$25 and the annual donation to the Senior Center for use of the meeting room, \$120 for a total budget of \$345. Expected income from public support \$350. Joan requested a reimbursement of batteries for the tape recorder. Rick said he could look into a battery and charger set up. It was decided that the setup would be purchased and the bill sent to Jessica. Rick made a motion to accept the 2016 budget as presented. Bill seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Correspondence: Connie confirmed that there will be a hearing before NHDES Water Council regarding the ABC appeal of the AoT permit for the Dalton Drag Strip on February 10, 2016. Charlie received an e-mail regarding the Bridge Street bridge project in Littleton. A foot bridge would be extended over the original refurbished abutments. It is an expedited application to DES. He called HEB Engineers Inc. for a copy of the application but was unable to open the file. Connie stated the comments needed to be in by December 17. Rick offered to try and open

the file and send info out in an e-mail. Connie referred to Dr. Field's report on fish passage, fluvial erosion and flood hazard. He says that bridges going in only affect the immediate area and not downstream.. It was suggested we send Best Management Practices as a comment. Rick stated we should comment but to hold until he opens the file. Committee members can send comments after the file is open and reviewed. Connie will give DES a heads up that we would like to comment.

Charlie stated that the Town of Littleton is looking to improve on the abandoned Old Brooks Plaza which is close to the River.

Charlie presented from the Dept of Energy the supplement report on the environmental impact statement for Northern Pass.

Connie informed the Committee of the National Forest project in Carroll to renovate Zealand Road and the two campgrounds. A map of the Ammonoosuc corridor seems to show the project falling in our jurisdiction. Charlie will notify Tracy of the project.

Old Business: Connie updated the Committee on the Public Hearing presented by DES on the reorganization of the Department. The Department plans to address all apps for a project at once to speed up the process. The State will be divided into 5 regions and each region will review their own apps. It's a concept plan that may not go into affect till 2017. DES reassures time will still be available for LAC review and comments. Rick stated the concept is to speed up the process for accepting the application but not necessarily issuing the permit. Committee members were concerned about the qualifications of the field workers and whether they would be able to sufficiently address all the apps. Discussion followed.

Northern Pass: Discussion on Marilyn Johnson's suggestion to bury transmission line on north side of Ammo . River. Marilyn stated that Bethlehem is having a study done to update the location of wetlands along the route. Discussion followed. Committee supported the suggestion to bury the line run as proposed using existing state and federal right of ways, but the LAC opposes the project as a whole. It was also identified that the app is incomplete. Draft letter to SEC and DES was reviewed and updated.

New Business:

Bethlehem will cc their expert wetland report. Marilyn went to a workshop at Hubbard Brook on climate change that suggested 18 inch culverts be used to address the increase of precipitation predicted.

Other: Rick informed the Committee that DRED is looking at recreational access to Rivers. Rick will send maps that are available.

Connie brought in the old files for Bath and Bethlehem,

With no further business before the Committee: Steve made a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Johnson seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Next meeting will be held on January 6, 2016 unless otherwise notified.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joan Karpf