

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale
Draft Minutes

July 19, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Keene Public Library
Keene, New Hampshire

ARLAC members present: Barbara Skuly, Chairperson, Swanzey; Brett Thelen, Vice Chairperson; Carl MacConnell, Gus Merwin, Marlow; Pablo Fleischmann, Gilsum; John Davis, Surry; Jim Holley, Eloise Clark, Keene.

I. Minutes: Minutes from June 21, 2016 were approved as corrected.

II. Permits

1. Gilsum-Hayward Brook permit still pending.
2. Swanzey-wetlands: Main St., more info requested by DES. Shoreland PBN -must cut some trees for swale, SVE marked limits of swale, and plans are adequate per DES, showing appropriate seeding/stabilization.
3. Swanzey-Shoreland- D Dunham approved 7/11.
4. Winchester emergency culvert, DES asked for more info/engineering study by 8/11
5. Swanzey/Winchester – wetlands, Covered bridges approved 7/01 & 6/30

III. Watershed Projects

1. Shoreland rules- as rewritten LAC's would not get plans just notice. We are told this will be removed, but we have not yet received official notice of such. If this goes to hearing without a change, then we will submit a letter in opposition.

2. Dam removal Amy Singular and Tim O'Brian presented to Keene Con Com 6 cases of dam removal. Did not advocate either way regarding West St. Dam. Take-away: "a river is a dynamic environment that self adjusts"

3. River Monitoring; Barbara contacted the Hinsdale Con Com Chair who states they support the program, but they have not been able to have a quorum so to vote on their donation. No support from Winchester nor Gilsum at this time.

4. John Davis raised issue of National Grid spraying along power lines and general concern for environmental impact. No specific site for concern at this time.

5. River cleanup most likely Sept 23& 24. Planning meeting Aug. 2. Pablo will check re: t-shirts.

6. Grant funds available:

- 604(b) Water Quality Planning projects—planning funds; -Moose plate funds – proposals due Sept. 15. Discussed possible projects but none likely at this time.

7. Keene airport 2 issues: Master plan and EA for tree cutting plan. No work would be funded federally if a project is not included in the Master Plan, thus the interest in having it inclusive of all needs. There are discussions of placing a fence around the runways that would impact wetlands. The EA for the proposed tree cutting is a separate issue and is being worked on with the Edgewood Neighborhood. Barbara will continue to monitor activity.

8. Hinsdale is seeking National Park Service funds and invited ARLAC to support their effort for Tourism development. The request was received with less than a week notice and Barbara did not reply. It was agreed by the Committee that this was not a priority for ARLAC at this time.

9. Brett shared with the Committee that Didymo is found to be native in cold water streams and not an invasive species. An increase has been noted probably due to improved water quality in streams.

10. Falls Brook -- work on connectivity starting, Brett will visit the site Thur. at 10am to look at the vegetation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Holley, Clerk