

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale

Minutes Aug 18, 2015
7:00 p.m. Keene Public Library
Keene, New Hampshire

ARLAC members present: Barbara Skuly, Chairperson, Swanzey; Carl MacConnell, Marlow; John Davis, Surry; Pablo Fleishmann, Gilsum; Jim Holley, Keene; Chuck Mills, Swanzey.

I. Minutes from July 21, 2015 were approved as corrected. Carl MacConnell and Gus Merwin were both appointed as Marlow representatives to ARLAC.

II. Projects

1. West Street Hydro-- We reviewed draft letter to FERC that is due Sept 10, 2015. Approved with the addition of concern of impact of sudden release of water from collapsed flashboards.
2. Jan McClure, TNC—Requesting a letter of support for ARM funds to create a conservation easement and restore a portion of the Ballou property along the river in Swanzey, near the confluence with the South Branch. The total cost would be approximately \$260,000 with \$170,000 from ARM funds. ARLAC in agreement this is an excellent use of ARM funds and Barbara will pen a letter of support.
3. River Monitoring. Have not received money from Hinsdale nor Winchester yet despite contact with both towns. May not get funding from Hinsdale as it appears the ConComm is not active. Treasury has \$1401.95 and each round of E.coli costs \$225.00
4. River clean-up will be September 25 and 26 with the Cheshire County Conservation District, Keene State College, City of Keene, and the Keene Young Professionals Network collaborating to do the Ashuelot in Keene, the Branch by the Stone Arch Bridge, and Beaver Brook on both days. We discussed ARLAC's involvement and hope to do the Ashuelot from Martel Ct. to Ashuelot River Campground on Sat the 26th by boat; dependent on the number of volunteers. Chuck has some canoes that he will make available, and thinks perhaps Pilgrim Pines might be interested in providing canoes &/or manpower. He will check with them and also with Swanzey officials regarding pick-up of trash from Cresson Bridge site. Barbara will check with Todd Bergeron who has rented canoes on the river, also the availability of the Key Club at MRHS. Pablo will contact The Mountain for t-shirts once again.
5. Lamprey River water level was low enough to force a release from Pawtuckaway Lake, all in accordance with the Instream-flow provisions created for this RMPP river.

III. Permits and actions

1. Keene/Swanzey rail trail bridge-- no action yet.
2. Winchester, Woodcrest Dr. Housing—wetlands, expedited permit—Replace existing culvert. Reviewed application, found no concerns and will send our letter when a file number is assigned. Appears the Con Comm has not yet seen the application.

IV. Other Business

1. Dinner on the Ashuelot Bridge, Sept. 12, fundraiser for the Winchester Revitalization & Economic Development Committee, \$25/person, contact Margaret Sharra for tickets.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Holley, Clerk