

# Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

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

October 20, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Keene Public Library  
Keene, New Hampshire

ARLAC members present: Barbara Skuly, Chairperson, Swanzey; Carl MacConnell, Marlow; Gus Merwin, Marlow; John Davis, Surry; Jim Holley, Keene; Christopher John, Winchester.

## I. Minutes from September 15, 2015 were approved as corrected.

Treasurers report balance \$1177.07.

Brett will continue as an AVEO/Harris Center rep, no longer a Keene rep.

## II. Permits

1. Mitchell sand and gravel. Company has submitted water monitoring plans accepted by DES. Public hearing soon in Winchester, probably the first week in Nov. Christopher will attend for ARLAC.
2. Keene rail trail bridge. DOT permits approved. Will pay \$89,000 ARM payment for wetlands impact; will work with the City of Keene for floodplain mitigation.
3. Beam shoreland permit Washington--approved day before our comments were received. Barbara contacted DES but did not get a reply.
4. Swanzey riverfront park. Stairs to river will stay and vegetation must be maintained. DES will revisit in the spring/summer to assess.

## III. Projects

1. West St. Hydro. Permit meeting at DES on Sept.18. WSH contacted USFWS & DES for DWM study requests, water quality study requirements & inundation assessment
2. River clean up Sept. 25 & 26. 115 people cleaned up 2 tons of trash in the Ashuelot, The Branch and Beaver Brook.
3. Falls Brook culvert replacement. Expected will be done in 2016.
4. Conte Refuge Management Plan. Discussion of plans, some government land purchases and some easements, tools for protection. State law limits Federal ownership of state lands. We will comment and support increased conservation management, addressing enhancement of the river and cooperation with private landowners and communities.
5. Draft Report Instream Flow Pilot Program. Reviewed executive summary of pilot program. Will comment in support of efforts to extend protected instream flow to all RMPP rivers. We would like the next river to be Ashuelot.
6. NH Draft 2014 303(d) List of Impaired Surface Waters –comments by 12/11, will take up at Nov meeting.

## IV. Meetings

1. Conte Refuge Management Plan-formal public hearing, 11/5; Keene Library 6-8pm.
2. CCCD Annual Meeting- 11/5, 6pm, Keene Country Club; John Magee speaking on the ecology of Brook Trout, health of habitats, & work done in the Ashuelot River Watershed to improve habitat.
3. Land Resources Management Bureau reorganization meeting, 11/10, Keene Public Library, 6-8pm. Barbara will attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Holley, Clerk