

## **Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Minutes**

Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Lisbon, Sugar Hill, Littleton, Bethlehem, Carroll, Sargent's Purchase  
Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Chairman Richard Walling called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM in a new location, the 4-H Room of Bath Town Building in Bath. There was a quorum with all members in attendance. This was the first in-person-meeting held since the pandemic changed the way meetings could take place. It was noted that the NHDES website shows Sargent's Purchase as an additional corridor town location. The Ammonoosuc River has its headwaters in this township.

Members in Attendance: Richard Walling, Chairman (Bath), Dennis McFadden (Sugar Hill), Sue McClain (Bethlehem), Errol Peters (Landaff), and Connie McDade (Littleton)

Members Absent: none

### **Meeting Minutes Updated**

Meeting minutes of the in-person-meetings of 12/11/19 and 1/08/20 held at the Senior Center in Littleton were approved by unanimous consent at in-person-meetings that followed (Ref. Robert's Rules). All of the subsequent meetings after 2/05/20 up until 7/15/21 were held by conference call and recorded electronically under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know Law, as allowed by the Emergency Order under Executive Order 2020-04 issued by Governor Christopher Sununu March 13, 2020 in light of Covid-19 outbreak. Voting in remote meetings took place by individual roll call vote; the results were recorded electronically and documented by retention of paper records.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dennis provided each of the LAC members with a written copy of the treasurer's report, including 2020 operating budget, total expenses and net income. The financial position as of August 31, 2021 year-to-date was included. It was noted that LAC donated funds to help with the mileage cost of two VRAP volunteers to do water testing for 3-months in 2021. The balance in the account was \$1,368 at the end of December 2020 and was \$1,418 as of August 31, 2021. The monthly meeting place in Bath Town Building is being provided free of charge for LAC monthly meetings. The unanimous decision was made by LAC members not to bill for municipal dues during the 2021 pandemic recovery phase; billing for 2022 will be sent out this autumn with a note of explanation attached. Errol made a motion to file the report as presented, seconded by Connie. Motion was approved.

### **Correspondence**

**1. Announcements and Letters To and From Granite State Landfill, LLC (GSL)**

- NHDES requested Granite State Landfill, LLC submit an amendment to the pending wetland application File #2020-02239 along with other applications to reflect only Phase 1 of the project to allow for a comprehensive and coordinated review of the impacts of the project on water resources. The DES will hold another public hearing to comment on the amended application. (8/26/21 letter from Rene Pelletier, P.G., Assistant Director Water Division)
- GSL will submit amended application and other listed required applications by December 15, 2021. GSL requests extension of review with DES decision on or before December 31, 2022. (8/27/21 reply from John Gay, E.I., GSL)

LAC members discussed the reaction of disappointment expressed by many folks that it appears like NHDES may be giving a pass to GLS in the allowance of time-to-reply to their request for information unlike what happens with other projects that have to follow the established statutes. As a rule, if applicant cannot meet the set-time deadline, they receive a denial and have to start over with a new application. This is a wait and see what happens situation. A different view expressed during the LAC discussion was that it is actually advantageous to have total context of all the DES Bureaus data available for decision-making, especially for a complex project being proposed for an environmentally sensitive area.

**2. Chairman Walling read a letter from Littleton Planning Board (PB), which gave reason why the PB Hearing was canceled on August 17, 2021.**

**Applications**

- NHDES UST Application for Lisbon Underground Storage Tank Upgrade to Facility #0010115 at 60 Main Street Lisbon location with letter from Mark Antonia, P.E. sent to LAC in advance of submitting the application to NHDES Waste Management Division. DES File number TBD. Motion was made by Errol, seconded by Dennis to send a letter to DES Reviewer Chad Hayes, saying that LAC has reviewed the application and has no concerns with the project, as long as they follow the Best Management Practices. Passed.

**Old Business**

- LAC Chairman Richard Walling and Connie attended the Dalton Landfill NHDES Hearing on July 14, 2021. Rick presented the LAC letter of comments at the hearing, as number 62 to speak. About 300 people attended the lengthy meeting, which went overtime to accommodate all those who wished to participate.

**New Business**

- Littleton Planning Board Hearing for the Highland Croft Excavation Application originally scheduled for August 17 was canceled. T&T Mtn. Investments LLC was

ready with their presentation, however because PB had voted to make the hearing regional, a letter needed to be sent to corridor towns downstream so they would have the opportunity to attend the hearing and express any concerns. Hearing is rescheduled September 7 at same place and time

- LAC members reviewed many documents including the Littleton PB Excavation Application, the plat, the 2002 Wellhead Study, the April 2004 Ammonoosuc River Watershed Map that shows the Brickyard Road Wellhead with its protective zone, the 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Plan, the Alteration of Terrain Application 210608-083 submitted 6/08/21 with date of request for more information 7/20/21 and the Littleton Zoning Board of Adjustment approval for excavation on this property by a different applicant, dated 10/06/10. LAC was given understanding that a recent change in statutes allows making use of this ZBA approval instead of scheduling a rehearing for this application, one project being a similar to the other.
  - Rick suggested asking DES Rivers Manager Tracie Sales how to go about getting an update on the AoT completeness, as the process moves forward.
  - LAC members discussed the significance of the stratified drift aquifer on this property; it is a very important groundwater source. Two major faults were identified in the 2002 wellhead test. The Groundwater Monitoring plan stated the drilled bedrock well is 500 ft. deep and is located 1200-1300 ft. from the blasting area. Folks should be fully informed in order to decide how much risk they are comfortable with and whether there are ways to go ahead that would limit risk. The LAC members ask the following questions:
    1. The wellhead Test was done 20 years ago. Should it be repeated?
    2. The depth of the groundwater is listed as unknown. Is it advisable to have that variable determined in advance of the blasting operation?
    3. Should a Hydrology Study be done in view of the fact that hydrogeology and hydraulics along with the assessment of the geotechnical factors would provide essential data to be taken into account?
    4. There is concern about the impact of what appears to be 5 interconnected areas of wetland shown on the plat being impacted by the direct blasting activity and by the indirect blasting effect from scatter of flying debris. The wetlands contribution to the water table is of paramount importance. What technical measures and management practices are recommended to protect the wetlands, during the drill and blast operations?
- Errol made the motion to add these questions to the LAC letter of comments to be read at the September 7 hearing. Sue seconded the motion. Passed.
- Terms of LAC Members discussed: one member's term expires in 2021 and three members terms expire in 2022.

- Election of Officers, an annual requirement in the Bylaws: Errol made a motion to re-elect the same slate of officers currently carrying this responsibility. They include Chairman Richard Walling, Vice Chairman and Treasurer Dennis McFadden, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary Connie McDade. Sue seconded the motion. Passed
- Elections were reopened up to inquire if Sue McClain would consider taking on the job of being Recording Secretary. The secretary position, according to the Bylaws should be assigned to two people. Sue said Yes to become the new Recording Secretary. Connie will continue on as Corresponding Secretary. Errol made the motion seconded by Dennis to make Sue's appointment official. Passed.
- Town Issues (Landaff)  
Errol updated the members on the status of the firewood project (Country Comfort Firewood) with huge woodpiles and kilns in close proximity to the Ammonoosuc River located directly across the street. The volume of wood stored on the parcel has expanded to dimensions that appear to exceed the parcel size to safely support the business activity that takes place. Site Plan Review was not done for this project. This matter is now in the hands of the town government to bring resolution to the public safety concerns and to protect the water quality in the Ammonoosuc River, while at the same time giving consideration to the business interests of Country Comfort Firewood to be able to operate, but at a less overwhelming level.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn by Errol, seconded by Dennis. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Connie McDade*