

# Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

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Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale  
Minutes

May 17, 2016

7:00 p.m. Keene Public Library  
Keene, New Hampshire

ARLAC members present: Barbara Skuly, Chairperson; Brett Thelen, Vice Chairperson; Carl McConnell, Marlow; John Davis, Surry; Pablo Fleishmann, Gilsum; Jim Holley & Eloise Clark, Keene; Chuck Mills, Swanzey; Christopher John, Winchester.

I. Minutes from March 15, 2016 were approved as corrected.

II. Meeting by Skype with Kim Goddu of West St. Hydro

FERC has given an extension until April 2018. On June 2, VHB will present their Hydrological Study and West St. Hydro will present an update of their activity to City Council. While studies were requested from US Fish and Wildlife and NH DES, West St. Hydro is in negotiations regarding the specifics of the studies and cannot discuss details at this time. However it is anticipated that a low flow water quality analysis will be done this summer; also studies related to the dwarf wedgemussel and rare plants.

III. Permits

City of Keene, Rte. 12 & Beaver Brook-- to replace existing culvert with 2 box culverts, and restore downstream left bank emergency repair. Permanent wetland impact will be 1,852 sq.ft. and 8,830 sq.ft. temporary impact. The existing red-listed bridge will be replaced as structurally sound, with updated traffic safety features and hydraulically compatible with Beaver Brook. However, it is not feasible to design to accommodate a 100 yr. flood event as it is felt the backwater effects of the Ashuelot River cause ponding at the site in such an event. A gabion wall will be constructed and biostabilization will be used on the downstream bank, and instream J-Hook Vanes will be placed to maintain existing sediment transport capacity downstream of the channel while reducing the high shear stresses along the left bank. After extensive review, the committee decided no comment was needed.

IV. Reports

1. Friends of Open Space/Conservation Fair April 12-- good exposure, well attended by community and many groups.
2. Public Information Session- Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport Master Plan Update- March 16. Nothing too significant at this meeting, however there is a Phase II Environmental Assessment that Barbara just received that should be looked at by the committee. There will be an information session about this on May 24 at 6pm, County courthouse.
3. Advocacy video/KSC student project. Needs work with crediting and approval, should be ready this summer.
4. River Monitoring- 4 new volunteers, but lost 4 volunteers. First sampling will be Tues. May 24<sup>th</sup>. Donations received from Sullivan, Swanzey, & Marlow.
5. California Brook Easement finished with 700 acres protected in Keene, Chesterfield and Swanzey. This area together with Pisgah State Park is the largest block of forest in southern NH that remains uncrossed by major roads.
6. Cresson Bridge scour project. There will be a meeting with Swanzey town officials & NHDOT, at the site Thurs the 19<sup>th</sup>. Chuck and Barbara will attend.

7. Canoe race May 7<sup>th</sup>. 34<sup>th</sup> year for this event, put-in at Keene Ashuelot Park, take out at Ashuelot Campground in Swanzey; reported on by the Sentinel. Chuck reports went okay but not sure about hosting next year. In the past a second race would be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> in Winchester, but it was moved to an earlier date and not held due to lack of water.

V. Other Business

1. Marlow-- Carl reported on Tin Shop Pond. Questioning if considered part of the Ashuelot River shoreland setback. Barbara to send Carl links regarding Shoreland regs and he will further investigate.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Holley, Clerk