

# Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

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Washington Lempster Marlow Gilsum Sullivan Surry Keene Swanzey Winchester Hinsdale  
Draft Minutes  
October 18, 2016 7:00 p.m.  
Keene Public Library  
Keene, New Hampshire

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

I. Minutes from September 20, 2016 were approved as corrected.

II. Treasury report: cash on hand \$1,277.75, bills due \$300, balance \$977.75

III. Membership. Jim's reappointment approved by DES. Pablo states his has been approved by Selectmen, but no notification received from DES; he will check with the town. Barbara's reappointment in process, and Brett will not be renewing but will continue to update our Facebook page. A Thank You for her service and the committee will greatly miss her participation.

#### IV. Permits

1. Gilsum wetlands- Hayward Brook pending; DES received information and needs to review by Nov 11.
2. Winchester emergency culvert- extension on information request to Dec. 12, permit by Jan 7.
3. Keene Beaver Brook at Rte. 101 & Main St. Permit due today, Oct 18.
4. West Swanzey Main St.- Rob Hitchcock and Barbara met with contractor at the site. The temporary berm will be deconstructed and lined with stone allowing water flow through the swale before draining over land and ultimately into the River. This is in agreement with the original plan.

#### V. Projects

1. Water testing – all results in.
  - a. Phosphorus 1 higher reading at mouth of South Branch in Sept.
  - b. E.coli within standards except an exceptionally high reading at Rte. 101 in Sept.
  - c. pH gradual improvement upper reaches still below 6.5
  - d. O2 all readings above standard save one reading at the mouth of South Branch of 1.53
  - e. Specific conductance all acceptable but show higher readings at Rte. 101 and Thompson Covered Bridge. Chloride well within parameters.
2. River clean up Sept. 23-24
  - a. Swanzey had 19 volunteers, 21 tires, and 849 pounds of trash.
  - b. Keene had 30 volunteers, and 1320 lbs. of trash. 29 tires were retrieved in Aug. by KSC students.
  - c. We received an award from the Connecticut River Watershed Council for the longest continuous participating cleanup.
3. Falls Brook plantings Oct. 10. 15 volunteers helped plant edible plants and shrubs grown and supplied by Keene State College and Russ Cohen who provided information regarding their food value.
4. Tree cutting Keene State College. Cut trees on west bank of the River that were leaning into the river with leaders approaching/threatening the pedestrian passage way. No permit needed as considered unsafe. Stumps left in place.
5. Corridor Management Plan/Implementation Plan. We began to review the plan to see how we are progressing for need for revision. Pablo suggested that since we agreed to add climate change to our

perspective, we should add it to our mission statement. It was agreed we would in any future publishing. More discussion regarding climate change and having Ann Shedd from Citizens for Climate Protection speak with our group to gain further insight as to how this can be incorporated into our reviews. Also USACE to speak to the issue and how it may influence their management of the dams in the watershed. We will resume review of the Implementation Plan at our next meeting.

#### VI. Legislation

1, Instream Flow Rulemaking (Env-Wq 1900) Information Meeting  
Wed, Oct 19 - 9:30 to 11:30 am; protected instream flow and water management plan sections. Barbara will attend.

#### VII. Meetings

1. Cheshire Conservation 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting Tues., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, Eloise Clark to receive Educator of the Year Award.

2. Community Meeting at Dillant Hopkins Airport- Discussion and review of Forest Management Plan, Sat, Nov 5, 2016, 8:30-noon. Barbara will likely attend.

3. Why Did the Brook Trout Cross the Road? An Introduction to Fish- and Flood-Friendly Stream Crossings. Thurs, Nov 17, 7-8:30 p.m., Putnam Science Center, Room 126, KSC.

#### VII. Other Business

1. Carl brought up some questions regarding the buildup of sediment in the Tin Shop Pond. Due to lack of time this will be brought up at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Holley, Clerk