

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES
LRPC COMMISSION MEETING

Meredith Community Center
 Meredith, NH
 September 24, 2012

PRESIDING: Stanley Bean, Jr., Chair
QUORUM: No

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.
COMMUNITIES PRESENT: 15

MEMBERS PRESENT:**OTHERS:**

John Cotton (Andover)	Robert & Maureen Ray
David Kerr (Barnstead)	Eleanor & Leo Morrisette
Steve Favorite (Bristol)	Fred Campbell
Maureen Criasia (Center Harbor)	Chris & Nicole Murray
Charlotte McIver (Danbury)	Bob Patenaude (Moultonborough PB)
Richard Waitt (Gilford)	Bob & Judy Dunlap (RA Dunlap & Sons, Inc.)
Stanley O. Bean, Jr. (Gilmanton)	Paul & Sue Schmidt
Robert Snelling (Holderness)	Max Stamp (Pemi River Local Ad. Comm.)
Dean Anson, II (Laconia)	Dan Paradis (Pemi River Local Ad. Comm.)
Warren Hutchins (Laconia)	Tom O'Brien (NH Lakes Assoc.)
William Bayard (Meredith)	Tim Whiting (Waukewan Watershed Ad. Comm.)
Herb Farnham (Moultonborough)	Bob Vogoer (Waukewan Watershed Ad. Comm.)
Barbara Perry (Moultonborough)	Mark Billings (Meredith CC)
Patricia Jones (Ossipee)	Kathy Barnard (Wolfeboro PB)
Boone Porter (Sandwich)	Stacy Pope (Wolfeboro PB)
Joseph Jesseman (Tilton)	Bob Ward (Sanbornton PB)
Roger Murray, III (Wolfeboro)	Jacque Colburn (NHDES)
Chuck Storm (Wolfeboro)	Jay Tivnan (Laconia PB)
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Rebecca Hanson (Squam Lakes Assoc.)
Jean Marshall (Freedom)	Dave & Marge Thorpe
Patricia Farley (Tamworth)	Carl Johnson
	Seth Creighton (Laconia PD)
SPEAKERS:	John Edgar (Meredith Comm. Development Director)
Darlene Forst, NH DES	Shanna Saunders (City of Laconia)
Mark Traeger, Chair, NH Shoreland Advisory Committee	Hillary Goldstein (Moultonborough Tea Party)
	Ann & Tom Crane
LRPC STAFF:	Judy Ryeren
Kimon Koulet	Keith Nessor
Dave Jeffers	Jane Kellogg (Campton CC)
Karin Landry	Fred Gunter (PRLAC)
	Stephen Wingate (Tuftonboro)
OTHERS:	Everett McLaughlin (Gilford CC)
George G. Whittacker	Stan Nelson (NH Lakes Assoc.)
Janet & Seth Stearns	Bob Clark
Thomas Hoopes (Alton PB)	Other Interested Parties

1. Welcome and Introduction

S. Bean called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. and asked those in attendance to identify themselves and their community. A motion to declare a quorum for the purpose of conducting business was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P Waitt/Snelling.*

2. Motion for Approval of the April 30, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2012 Commission meeting was made and unanimously passed after removing B. Perry from the list of Commissioners in attendance. *M/S/P McNiff/Snelling.*

3. The Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA) at One Year: How is it Doing?

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Shoreland Section Supervisor Darlene Forst updated the Commission on how the SWQPA is progressing since it was amended in 2011. She reviewed the two legislative changes this session: HB 1484 includes language restoring the ability to add decks to pre-existing non-conforming structures while prohibiting conversion of decks within the 50' setback; and SB 344 allows for the clearing of vegetative buffers on state parkland for law enforcement or safety concerns. A streamlined process for permit notification has resulted in better reporting of small projects, low rejection rate, and less public frustration. Revenue is 30-40% behind prior years and administrative costs are up, resulting in a significant reduction in outreach in order to maintain compliance and staffing levels. The Department is exploring the use of technology to address the large number of inquiries that are received on a daily basis. The amended Act includes changes in the definitions of "groundcover" and "natural groundcover" and there is a new point scoring system in the waterfront buffer that increases the points allotted for saplings, and adds points for trees over 12" in diameter, shrubs, and natural groundcover. The definition of "unaltered state" has been amended to allow for various activities needed for plant health, normal maintenance, and renewal. Lawn does not meet the unaltered requirement in the natural woodland buffer, but is sufficient to meet the requirement within the waterfront buffer. Ms. Forst reviewed rumblings of future concerns expressed by the public including the adequacy of vegetated buffers and filling to raise grades and divert run off. In closing, she reviewed the difficulties that are faced in enforcement responsiveness and effectiveness due to the restricted ability to enter property. Additional information regarding the SWQPA can be found at www.des.nh.gov.

4. The Shoreland Water Quality Act: Are Changes Needed?

Mark Traeger, the Shoreland Advisory Committee Chair and member of the Rockingham Planning Commission reviewed the diverse groups and landowners that comprise the SAC and are working together to protect natural resources and water. All the interests that are represented in the SAC unanimously support the Shoreland Act. Mr. Traeger reviewed the efforts that have been made to educate the SAC on the issues facing Shoreland Protection so that they can operate with the best set of knowledge possible. Last year, three separate committees were formed to address the specific water quality issues for lakes, rivers, and tidal areas. The committee was charged to meet once a quarter but is meeting more often in order to make recommendations to Commissioner Burack sometime later this year or early next year. It is anticipated that the recommendations will more closely resemble the standards of 2008, which included a very simple method to comply with the rules, and will include a provision for a trigger event where a landowner will have the option of hiring an engineer to address the mitigation of storm water. The work of the three committees will culminate in recommendations for one Act.

5. FY 13 LRPC Annual Report and FY 14 Membership Appropriations

A motion to approve the FY 13 Annual Report and FY 14 Membership Appropriations was made and unanimously passed. *M/S/P Waitt/Favorite*

6. LRPC Proposed Communications Policy

LRPC Executive Board member B. Porter reviewed the purpose of the proposed communication procedures. The Executive Board determined it beneficial to set out the framework for how official information is communicated and formalized. The communications policy provides a framework where there is clarity and no one is confused who has the authority to speak an official position. The Chairman of the Executive Board and Executive Director of the Commission are automatically designated as official spokesperson if any government agency, news reporter, or other party inquires about the Commission's official position or is asked to comment on a factual occurrence. In addition, certain individuals can be appointed by the Executive Board or Executive Director as official spokesperson on a particular matter. Members of the Commission are encouraged to become familiar with the Commission's official positions and policies and to explain to their communities what the Commission is doing. W. Bayard inquired whether there have been problems with people who are not LRPC executives speaking on behalf of the Commission. B. Porter explained that the Board decided to be proactive and set forth guidance on the matter. He reiterated that people are free to express their opinion on any subject at any time to any person so long as they do not indicate that they are speaking for the Commission. S. Favorite noted that the Commission is working to be proactive in responding to various types of requests for information. W. Bayard suggested allowing time for additional input and rewriting of the policy. A motion to approve the proposed Communications Policy was made and seconded. *Hutchins/Storm*. A motion to table the matter until the next meeting was not seconded. *Bayard*. There was no opposition to the seconded motion and it was approved with one abstention *Bayard*.

7. Other Discussion

A member of the audience inquired whether the RPCs that are cooperating in the Granite State Futures (GSF) project have read in their entirety the binding contracts for participating in GSF as well as all the accompanying documents in order to gain a full understanding of the legally binding contract the Planning Commissions are about to enter into. K. Koulet responded that to the best of their knowledge, the RPCs have done so. The only contract LRPC has entered into is with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) and the other RPCs have individual agreements with the NRPC, which is a routine way to enter into an agreement for federal funding. Additional information regarding the master agreement between the funding source and NRPC, as well as the sub-agreements between NRPC and the other eight RPCs, can be found at www/granitestatefuture.org.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 19, and will feature the NH Department of Transportation (NH DOT) and the public perception of how well DOT is doing. The public's opinion and input is welcomed and all are invited to attend. The location has yet to be determined. A press release is forthcoming and the information will be posted on the LRPC website.

8. Adjourn

S. Bean declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.