



Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee

2019 Annual Report

As expected, circumstances have changed for members of the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) since the first meeting January 8, 2008. Only four of the original 14 members remain on the committee envisioned in 2004 when representatives of seven towns, Carroll, Bethlehem, Littleton, Landaff, Lisbon, Bath and Haverhill met, along with three representatives of interest groups. They concurred that the best way to address issues along the river would be to work together in protecting the water quality of the Ammonoosuc along its corridor.

LAC members represent the interests of their communities on the committee. Without that representation a town is missing out on an opportunity to provide input and receive feedback in a timely manner. Each town may nominate up to three members and we ask the select board of each town to help us identify qualified candidates, especially those towns currently without a representative.

Current Member Representatives (6)

Bath:	Richard Walling
Bethlehem:	Marilyn Johnson until 12/12/19
Carroll:	Vacant
Landaff:	Errol Peters
Lisbon:	Vacant
Littleton:	Arthur Greene, Connie McDade
Sugar Hill:	Dennis McFadden
Haverhill:	Vacant

In 2019 LAC membership was extended to include towns in the Ammonoosuc River watershed. Sugar Hill nominated a representative whose main concern is maintaining the quality of water in a Salmon Hole tributary, which flows through Sugar Hill. A Fluvial Geomorphic Assessment of the Ammonoosuc in 2011 found that a site by the Salmon Hole Bridge in Lisbon is one of the highest yielding and deepest aquifers in the Ammonoosuc Valley. Because of this and the resource value of its trout habitat, LAC members supported a restoration project by Salmon Hole Bridge.

Water quality protection and storm water management have been the main issues for the LAC this year. Protection of ground water from runoff is vital for safe drinking water and for preserving the aesthetic values of the river. Waste management is currently at the forefront of local concern with the Bethlehem landfill seeking a final expansion and threatening to relocate to a site in the neighboring town of Dalton near Forest Lake. Selection of a site for disposal of waste in a less critical environmental area is of utmost importance.

LAC participated in the review process for Northern Pass from 2011 to July 2019 by attending hearings, reviewing applications and sending comments to the Site Evaluation Committee, the N.H. Department of Environmental Services and the U.S. Department of Energy. It was heartening to see that the grass-root efforts of ordinary citizens and concerned groups succeeded in protecting New Hampshire’s critical environment. Committee members envisage an increasingly challenging agenda in the year ahead as it seeks to preserve and enhance the quality of this extraordinary resource our towns enjoy.

Sincerely,

*Marilyn Johnson*

Marilyn Johnson, Acting Chair  
Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee