

## Public Hearing Minutes

### **Nomination of the Lower Exeter River and Squamscott River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program**

**July 14, 2010**

**Stratham Town Hall, Town Stratham, NH**

**6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

#### **Members Present**

Michele L. Tremblay, Vice Chair  
Anne Krantz  
Jim Ryan  
Kathryn Nelson  
Larry Spencer

#### **Representing**

Conservation Interests  
Historical & Archaeological Interests  
NH Fish & Game Department Comm.  
Local River Management Advisory Comm.  
NH Association of Conservation Commissions

#### **Term**

Dec. 28, 2011 V  
June 15, 2010 V  
Sept. 28, 2012 V  
Sept. 5, 2010 V  
Sept. 28, 2010 V

#### **DES Staff Present**

Laura Weit-Marcum  
Jenn Rowden  
Carolyn Guerdet

NHDES Acting Rivers Coordinator  
NHDES Lakes and Rivers Asst. Planner  
NHDES Administrative Assistant

#### **6:00 Opening**

Vice Chairman Michele Tremblay opened the meeting with the introductions of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) present. She then asked those present in the audience to introduce themselves. Ms. Tremblay then reviewed the purpose of hearing for the Lower Exeter River and Squamscott River Nomination.

Laura Weit-Marcum, Acting Rivers Management Coordinator gave a PowerPoint overview of the Rivers Management Protection Program. Following the public hearing, the DES Rivers Coordinator and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee will make their respective recommendations to the DES Commissioner after the September 28<sup>th</sup> RMAC meeting. The DES Commissioner will review the nomination and must make a determination whether to forward the nomination to the General Court for legislative approval within 45 days.

A history and review of major facts and findings of the river was given. Theresa Walker with the Rockingham Planning Commission gave an overview of the work that had been done on the nomination. Don Clement, Chair of the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee gave a history and description of the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River.

Vice Chairman Tremblay then opened the floor for a question and answer period.

- 1) Dan Jones asked if incorporation would add additional requirements or restrictions. Laura answered there would be no additional permits required at the town level. What would be required is an extra copy of Wetlands, Shoreland, or Alteration of Terrain permit applications be sent to the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) for their review and advisory comments.
- 2) Mike Lambert asked if this would cause problems in the future for sewage treatment plants. Laura answered that existing federal and state laws still apply and there is nothing specific within the designation that pertains to these.

Ms. Tremblay asked if additional letters of support had been received since the presentation at the RMAC meeting. Laura noted one had been received from a resident of the Town of Exeter. The Board of Selectmen from all three communities have submitted letters of support. She then opened the floor for public comment. All comments received were in favor of the nomination and were given by the following:

Rob Wofchuck  
Dan Jones  
Paul Deschaine  
Pat Elwell  
Mike Lambert  
Representative Donna Schlachman  
Ray Konisky

Anne Krantz noted it was a beautiful river and that it was exciting to see the enthusiasm and cooperation amongst the towns.

Vice Chairman Tremblay then closed the public hearing; noting that public comments can be submitted in writing to NH Department of Environmental Services Attn: Laura Weit-Marcum, Acting Rivers Coordinator, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 until July 28, 2010. She thanked everyone for coming and their show of support. She reminded all in attendance that the RMAC meeting in September is open to the public if they would like to attend.

The RMAC will now vote at its September 28, 2010 meeting in Concord.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.**