

Public Hearing Minutes
Nomination of the Oyster River into the
New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program

August 17, 2010
Madbury Town Hall, Madbury, NH
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Members Present

Ken Kimball, Chair
Michele L. Tremblay, Vice Chair
Anne Krantz
John Magee
Kathryn Nelson
Allan Palmer
James Ryan
Larry Spencer

Representing

Recreational Interests
Conservation Interests
Historical & Archaeological Interests
NH Fish & Game Department
Local River Management Advisory Comm.
Business and Industry Association
NH Fish & Game Commission
NH Association of Conservation Comm.

Term

Dec. 28, 2011 V
Dec. 28, 2011 V
June 15, 2010 V
Indefinite NV
Sept. 5, 2010 V
Sept. 28, 2010 V
Sept. 28, 2012 V
Oct. 12, 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

6:30 Opening -Chair Ken Kimball opened the meeting with the introductions of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) present. Chairman Kimball reviewed the agenda for the evening. He noted that if those in attendance didn't testify at this meeting they could submit written comments up until August 31st. He also reviewed the purpose and the nomination process. Following the public hearing, the DES Rivers Coordinator and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee will make their respective recommendations to the DES Commissioner. 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.

Laura Weit-Marcum, Acting Rivers Management Coordinator gave a PowerPoint overview of the Rivers Management Protection Program.

A history and review of major facts and findings of the river was given by Tom Lee. He introduced the other members of the committee: Eric Fiegenbaum, Chuck Cox, Brian Gallagher, and Dick Weyrick (who gave the river tour but was unable to be at the hearing). He also thanked the Strafford Regional Planning Commission for their support and help and DES. Mr. Lee gave an overview of the Oyster River, the history and major facts and findings. He then reviewed the work that had been done on the nomination.

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

- 1) Robert Eckert asked where the exact end was in Barrington. Mr. Lee answered Hall Road. The nomination states that the beginning of the nominated section of river shall begin "immediately downstream of the Hall Road Bridge in Barrington".
- 2) Charles Williams asked if the nitrogen contribution from the Durham Wastewater Treatment Plant was part of the run-off in the percentage from the nominating group's presentation. Tom Lee confirmed it is.
- 3) Eric Fiegenbaum asked how many people from each town could be appointed. Laura replied there is at least one representative from each town needed and that a total of seven are needed to be on a Local River Advisory Committee. If there is an interest not by those nominated by the towns, then the LAC can seek to have someone appointed to represent that interest as well.
- 4) Tremblay added the RMAC will note if the governing bodies of the towns have sent letters of support. Laura commented that there is an upcoming meeting planned with the Board of Selectmen of Lee.

The floor was then opened for public comment. All comments received were in favor of the nomination and were given by the following:

Steve Burns, Durham Conservation Commission, unanimous support

Steve Conklin, representing the Barrington town administrator, who could not make it; she wanted to show her support for this effort.

Robert Eckert, Chair Bellamy and Oyster River Watershed Protection Partnership, spoke in support.

Representative Janet Wall, Madbury Water Resources Commission, thanked all involved and willing to continue to support.

Representative Naida Kaen, a Lee resident, surprised to hear that the town of Lee has not been supportive.

Chuck Cox, Oyster River Watershed Association (ORWA), spoke in support.

Sandra Straus, Madbury property owner, impressed with work and information gathered for water protection.

Kai Stopelfeldt, Barrington resident, encouraged nomination to go forward.

Cynthia Copeland, Strafford Region Planning Commission (SRPC), spoke in support and is looking forward to the nomination moving forward. She was impressed with the ORWA and their monthly walks offered in the watershed and she appreciates the neighbor-to-neighbor approach.

Eileen Miller, Lamprey River Advisory Committee, spoke in support of the nomination.

Bambi Miller, Strafford Conservation District, enjoyed the ORWA walks which are open to the public, how they listen and are positive.

Kyle Pimental, SRPC, noted developing the nomination was a great experience and was glad for the opportunity.

Chairman Kimball then closed the comment period. He thanked the ORWA for their tour and everyone for coming and their show of support. He reminded all in attendance that the RMAC will take written comments until August 31st. And the RMAC meeting September 28th is open to the public if they would like to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.