

Hodgson Brook Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 6, 2007 from 4:30 -- 6:00 PM
NH Community Technical College, Pease International Tradeport

In attendance: Ann Smith, Doug DePorter, Steve Miller, Dave Burdick, Peter Britz,
Stephen Jones, Natalie Landry, Julia Peterson, Maria Stowell, Candace Dolan, Sally
Soule, Jen Kennedy

Dave Burdick Chaired the meeting. The HBAB reviewed the minutes from the March 6, 2007 meeting. No changes were noted. A motion to approve was forwarded and seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

Natalie Landry spoke about the new projects planned for the next two years. The first is the proposed buffer enhancement or creation of a new riparian buffer project. Ideally the chosen site would have public access and might include pathways which would allow it to be used as a demonstration site; the goal would be to make the buffer natural yet still useable for public enjoyment. Candace reported that the Portsmouth Rotary Club had a grant program limited to \$10,000 which might be appropriate as a partial funding source for such a project. Maria commented that there was an area on Pease located north of Southern NH University and south of Martins Point Healthcare that might be an appropriate spot to consider. The property is currently under agreement with Appledore Engineering who is interested in developing the site with some LID technologies with plans to use it as a demonstration site for their business. The site has some ledge issues which need to be addressed. The concept was given preliminary approval by the PDA last week. It was mentioned that Appledore Engineering has split into two groups a marine engineering division (Jack Mette) and a civil engineering division (Greg Mickilitis (?)). The possibility of finding a corporate sponsor for the project was also mentioned.

The new Hodgson Brook website has been updated by Jen and there is now a link to volunteer possibilities making the Hodgson Brook volunteers official "Brook Keepers."

A second new project is the Storm drain retrofit study. There is a \$2,000 stipend available to hire a student (preferably one with an engineering background) to locate and identify where it is feasible and appropriate to retrofit stormwater infrastructure in the Hodgson Brook watershed. Discussion ensued as to the best way to implement the plan. The project had been mentioned to Tom Ballestero at the UNH Storm Water Center, but he felt that the chances of finding an appropriate student were slim. Dave Burdick commented that graduate student schedules would probably not allow them to take it on. Steve Jones offered to speak to Tom and see if we could at least get it started somehow in hopes that once it was underway it would gain momentum. To gain additional funding suggestions were made that perhaps it would fit into a CICEET grant or NHEP Technical Assistance grant (generally for municipalities according to Peter Britz). A suggestion was made but not acted on that a subcommittee could look into possibilities.

...Steve Miller updated the board on the present status of the Meadowbrook redevelopment plan as accepted by the Portsmouth Conservation Commission. The

project has now moved onto the Planning Board and both Steve and Candace have been asked to attend the next Planning Board session on June 21 to answer questions. Candace asked the board to offer input into a letter to be sent to the Planning Board and to clarify the board's stand on the project as it now is proposed. The board consensus was that the proper installation and maintenance of the systems was critical, a bond to ensure maintenance over the long term was suggested. The question was raised as to who is responsible for inspecting the systems, according to Peter therein lies the problem. Natalie reminded the board that to be true to our mission and goal to protect and restore the brook we must push for better development plans. No gas station next to the Brook. It was suggested to use references to the management plan and City Master Plan. It was also suggested that the developer's use of the technology was not solving existing problems just treating the problems they are creating.

An additional suggestion was to restore that section of the brook by removing fill to expand the flood plain width. A decision was made to use strong language such as "we feel that the gas station is an inappropriate use of the property because of its proximity to the Brook".

Candace will draft a letter and send it out to the board for approval before the 21st meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19th 4:30-6:00 pm at the NH Community Technical College.

A motion was raised to adjourn and seconded. A unanimous vote was made to adjourn.