

Nashua River Wild & Scenic Committee
Notes from the Committee Meeting
NRWA's River Resource Center, 592 Main Street, Groton, MA
December 17, 2015

INFORMAL NOTES

Attending: Ayer (Beth Sudemeyer & Robert Pontbriand); Dunstable (Judy Larter); Groton (Nadia Madden); Harvard (Lucy Wallace & Michele Girard); Lancaster (Bill Flynn); Shirley (Heidi Ricci & Betsy Colburn); Pepperell (Paula Terrasi & Mark Andrews); Townsend (Leslie Gabriliska & Bill Wilkinson); NRWA (Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell, Martha Morgan & Al Futterman); NPS (Jamie Fosburgh)

Also Attending: Tim Newman; Trish Garrigan

1. **Introductions** were made.
2. **Informal Notes** from the October 8, 2016 meeting were accepted.
3. **Brief Overview** by Jamie Fosburgh was presented for the benefit of those who were not at the October meeting. Topics touched on included: how the Study Committee came to be; the NPS/NRWA Cooperative Agreement; Anticipated Overall Timelines & Role of Public in Process of Seeking W&S Designation; Responsibilities of the Study Committee; and Major products to produce.
4. **Broad Timeline:** it was pointed out that the three years of the Study go by quickly, and we have to keep our eye on being ready to disseminate the major products in advance of the important town meetings to be held in the spring of 2018. Ideally draft final products would be ready in the fall of 2017. Important early on to be clear about 'what it is' and 'why it is important.'
5. **Elections:** Lucy Wallace was approved as Chair of the Nashua River Wild & Scenic Committee; Nadia Madden was approved its Vice Chair.
6. **Meeting Schedule** for the full Committee was approved: the Third Thursday of each month. Meetings will be held at the NRWA's River Resource Center from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m..
7. **Next Steps:** Committee members expressed interest in having someone come to the next Committee Meeting who has been through this process for their river's Wild & Scenic designation (possibly Julia Blatt). The Chair, Vice-Chair, NRWA, and NPS will meet before the next meeting to prepare recommendations *re* committee membership, committee basic rules of operating, timeline, and beginning to focus on the Outstanding Resource Values for our river sections.
8. **MA Open Meeting Laws:** Do they apply? Robert Pontbriand got some preliminary information from Kopelman and Paige that helped the Committee focus on whether it is or isn't a public body. Jamie Fosburg and Lucy Wallace will gather additional information. Even if the Committee is not a public body subject to MA Open Meeting Laws, the Committee wants to be transparent and communicative. The Committee's website will play a big role in this, once it is up and running. Links can be made from Town websites to our website, etc. Agendas can be sent to Town Administrators for posting, ideally 48 hours in advance. Notes can be posted/available. Anyone who wants to attend Committee meetings is welcome.
9. **Interests/Topics/Partners to be Included in Study:** Robert offered to maintain, with the assistance of Cindy Knox (Ayer's IT staff person) the Study Committee' website. He asked members for input on the site's organization and content. The following points were raised by Committee members:
 - Consider adding USFWS and FWHA as partners

- Consider how best to use social media; how to correct misinformation on blogs
 - Should the final product be online and interactive, not just 2 written documents
 - Tie into the 2016 NPS 100th anniversary
 - Work with local land trusts to organize walks
 - Consider stream crossings and connectivity
 - Recognize the importance of recreation (particularly blue trails)
 - Consider how water quality has changed over time; perhaps displaying visually;
 - Involve schools by disseminating information, such as water quality changes
 - Include GIS mapping of all protected lands in study area
 - Look at FWNHA management plan for maps and information on area archeology and cultural history
 - Review towns' open space plans
 - Track Congressional funding of Wild & Scenic designated rivers
 - Review recent Wild & Scenic management plans
10. **Next Meeting:** Confirmed for January 21, 2016 at NRWA's RRC, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
11. **Adjourned:** 9:00 p.m.

Notes by EAC