

Ossipee Aquifer Steering Committee
October 22, 2010
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

John Shipman, Freedom, OWC	Kamal Nath, Effingham
David Little, Tamworth	Al Levesque, Effingham
Susan Slack, Effingham	Eric Senecal, LRPC
Theresa Swanick, Effingham	Tara Schroeder, GMCG
Noreen Downs, GMCG & Madison	

RECAP OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tara recapped the September meeting, noting that a number of planned outreach tasks had been identified for the October meeting, and that they would be discussed following the GPO updates.

GPO UPDATES

Tamworth

Tara updated the committee on Tamworth since David had not arrived yet. Roughly 35 people attended the initial public hearing that was held for the ordinance on October 13. She said that the planning board demonstrated good comprehension of the ordinance and that the people in attendance seemed largely supportive. The requirement in Tamworth's draft for a conditional use permit for activities involving the blasting of bedrock was the subject of much discussion and something that needed clarification.

Eric briefed the committee on the subsequent conference call that had occurred with Ned Beecher (Tamworth), Pierce Rigrod (DES) and Kathy Bunker (Tamworth) regarding the blasting. It was pointed out that in the model ordinance a conditional use permit was not required. Pierce explained that blasting was associated with the formation/deposition of nitrate/nitrite in soil as well as per chlorate, depending on the blasting chemicals used. He provided a link to a study in Massachusetts where those activities are more heavily regulated. Eric said he would pass that email on to the group following the meeting. Ned had felt that Pierce's clarifications were adequate to bring back to the public hearing.

Kamal suggested basing a requirement for a conditional use permit on some volume of ammonium nitrate used in blasting.

Tara asked how the draft was made public. David said it was posted at the library, on the town website <http://www.tamworthnh.org/>, at the town office, and on the Tamworth Exchange (a web-based forum).

David said people wanted to see roads on the map as a reference. He also warned others about editing the draft after it had been posted and cautioned everyone to review the cross references to articles in the draft. Theresa pointed out that the Effingham GPO subcommittee had named every instance of cross references in their draft so that the reader could know what article was being referenced. She said that among the Effingham group there was lots of discussion about container size limits and how it would be easier if the ordinance applied to containers of greater than 5 gallons rather than to containers of five gallons or more. David pointed out that it is because 5 gallon containers are regulated containers and are very common. Kamal added that it is difficult to safely transfer material from a 5 gallon container because of its weight, and that it made sense for them to be included in the ordinance.

Theresa and Susan thought that the BMP certification letter requirement that Tamworth developed, with assistance from DES, regarding the exemption of forestry and agriculture activities from certain performance standards, added an extra, unwanted requirement for the applicant without doing much, if anything, to provide meaningful assurances.

Tamworth's next planning board meeting on November 10 at 8pm is when the next public hearing on the GPO will be.

Freedom

John said that Freedom was still working on their draft, and that in particular, they were interested in example of stormwater management plans that would be adequate. Not having a clear example of this is a problem. Others on the committee expressed interest in this as well.

Eric said that he had looked for examples, but that none had come up in the Tri-Town area yet. He pointed out that the model ordinance states that applicants must provide a stormwater management plan *consistent* with the NHDES stormwater manual. That "consistent" was a term that allowed boards make a discretionary determination, and that detailed guidance could be developed after adoption of the ordinance.

Tara mentioned that the Stormwater Center or Technology Transfer Center at UNH might have some good examples, and Eric and Tara said they would look for some. NH Stormwater Manual – available online at NH DES website:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/manual.htm>

Effingham

Theresa said that the subcommittee had finished drafting their ordinance and had sent the planning board a copy. The ordinance will be presented to the board on **Thursday, October 28 at 6:30 pm.**

Kamal suggested presenting in such a way as to draw out interest and questions. He suggested asking if they had any questions following each section and to really try to engage them.

Tara asked if they wanted anyone to attend in support. It was decided that it was best to not ask many people to attend but to wait until another meeting.

Susan mentioned that they may shift golf courses from the list of prohibited uses to conditional uses.

Ossipee

Eric gave an update on the Ossipee GPO. There had been a meeting in October where the Board voted 3 to 2 to continue to discuss the ordinance on **November 2**, but that it would be the final meeting to discuss the GPO. Eric told the committee that Pat Jones thought that it was going to be difficult to get their support on November 2.

Tara asked if it made sense to ask people to attend. Eric thought so but had not heard from Pat on the matter. John thought that it might be good to get a supportive local business in the proposed district to speak up in support of the ordinance. Tara and John suggested Windy Hill Farm, and Tara thought that if Jay Buckley could attend and speak as a neighboring town planning board member that it might be helpful. Other people from the Ossipee CC, volunteers, and businesses would be contacted.

Sandwich

Tara said that she had heard from Tim Miner that Sandwich continues to be side tracked on the effort and that he will attempt to get things going again.

Madison

Madison was not discussed

APO vs. GPO

A brief discussion was held on appropriate titles for ordinances. Kamal thought that groundwater was not necessarily a useful term. Eric pointed out that there was no reason why ordinances couldn't be titled, "Aquifer and Community Public Well Protection District" if there was a need to be more specific.

PUBLIC OUTREACH TO "GET OUT THE VOTE"

Currently no local outreach events had been planned. Kamal and Susan discussed the idea of a presentation to the Historical Society. Al mentioned that involving lake associations would be good as well. Other ideas of community groups to engage included: Effingham coffee hour, Writers Night, libraries, chamber of commerce, rotary clubs and PTAs.

Tara asked how David had done outreach prior to the Tamworth public hearing. He said that he had emailed people, and said that it was very helpful to have the list of all of the well-head protection area names. That way people could see that their water supply was being protected. Eric will send a list of WHPA names out to the committee.

Susan thought that the Lakeview Neurorehabilitation Center would be interested to know that their well was included. Other businesses could also be reached directly whose water supplies would be protected by the ordinances.

John said he has a slide presentation prepared that he could share with others for any presentations.

It was decided that it did not make sense to send out postcards prior to the first public hearings to residents who had voted in the last general election, but to save resources for outreach mailings in advance of town meeting. John (Freedom), David (Tamworth), Pat (Ossipee) and Al (Effingham) all had lists of those voters for the future mailing.

Eric has a draft press release and will send it to Susan and Tara for comment. LRPC will issue a press release to local papers. Eric has asked *The Citizen* if they would be interested in covering the aquifer protection effort through some reporting.

GMCG and others will write letters to the editor, but it was noted that it was important to identify residents in Ossipee and Effingham who could write letters to the editor soon, and other towns like Tamworth may be better served by having these letters in the papers later on in the process. Al said that Lost Valley could possibly write a letter to the editor.

The possibility of notifying NHPR of the effort was raised. Eric looked into appropriate programs and found that 'Front Porch' was no longer on the air. It may be possible to get coverage on the news slot between programs. Other radio spots have been set for December and February for the local station.

The idea of creating a DVD for public access cable was brought up and Noreen volunteered to do a voice over for a presentation of John's powerpoint.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Community Presentation December 7th 6:30-8:30pm Runnells Hall Chocorua (Steve Whitman, Eric, John, Tara)*

HOMEWORK

- Eric will get list of WHPA names, send blasting info from Pierce, type up meeting minutes and complete draft press release.
- John will finalize a one-page handout
- Tara and Eric will look for examples of stormwater management plans
- Tara will begin setting up presentations to community groups and notify the rest of the group about dates so volunteers can help present.
- Tara will invite community members, businesses to the November 2nd at 7pm Ossipee PB meeting
- Work will continue on preparations for the Dec. 7th community meeting.

- Tara will email the group the draft of the BMP Strategic Plan once it is complete for comment.
- Everyone: please get digital lists of registered voters to Tara. Freedom, Effingham, Madison, Sandwich and Tamworth are needed.
- Everyone: please promote the December 7th community meeting amongst your town boards and residents.

NEXT MEETING

November 12, 10:00 – 12:00 GMCG Office