



Mason Conservation Commission Minutes

Nov. 19, 2008 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Attendees: Bob Larochelle, Liz Fletcher, Bob Dillberger, Stuart Sherman, Ann Moser, Cynthia Hajjar, Paula Babel.

**For Mark Archambaut's notes see page 2. For attendees list see signup sheet on page 3. For Lipin notes see page 4.

Hearing for Groundwater Reclassification

Liz gave the introduction with mention of pollution to Mason Elementary School well as an example of the dangers to Mason's drinking water.

Mark Archambeault explained the classes, GAA being the highest protection (prohibits 6 land uses) which has no impact on residential subdivisions and single family homes.

The Conservation Commission identifies aquifers to be reclassified, forms management plan and best management practices (BMP) list, and submits to NHDES. After implementation is done it must be revisited every 3 years. The Commission will contact land owners and ask questions to identify Potential Contamination Sources (PCS) which may use regulated substances in greater than household amounts.

Regarding groundwater reclassification costs, it was determined that the main cost would be to cover mailings to the Potential Contamination Sources when the BMP survey would be done every 3 years. Since there's only 1 PCS in the aquifer area (Fletcher Granite), about 6 in the Imagine That day care center well protection zone and none in the Mason School Well Protection zone, the cost will be low.

Mark went over bmps and showed situations which pose danger, which mostly involved improper storage of regulated substances (rusted & uncovered storage tanks and barrels near rivers or in fields). For more info see this website <http://www.des.nh.gov/dwspp/reclass.htm>. (drinking water supply protection program).

Public comment:

Bill Wiess asked how many reclassifications were currently happening. Pierce said there are very few right now. Bill also asked about a strange fluid leaking in stream on Old Ashby Road. His dog got sick from it. Liz said the beavers could cause the dog to be sick.

Someone asked about treatment of town roads. Pierce said no salt is used on dirt roads and town has to store salt properly in a covered shed.

Pat from Wilton rd. asked about bmps regarding horse dung. Pierce said she must bury animal dung to avoid pollution going into a water source.

John L. asked about abandoned granite quarries. Neal asked about heavy construction equipment. Pierce said if transferring more than 5 gallons must use pad to contain spills. Charlie Moser asked about enforcement. DES has jurisdiction if the reclassification happens. Otherwise the town health inspector has authority to enforce. Carol Anne Bennette asked about circumference of protection areas around the wells. Liz said about 1000'. Lynn McCann wanted to reiterate this session is educational only. Mike Davieau mentioned use of fertilizer and pesticides at driving range and various repair businesses. Liz said those businesses will be approached during the reclassification process. The Commission can inspect storage of fertilizer and pesticide but does not monitor application in this program.

Liz outlined the procedure of notification and survey process for businesses which are PCS. Pierce specified there was no connection between DES and town for minor infractions. Mike D. commented that the driving range is open over 6 months a year and serves more than 25 per day and it's well should be included. Pierce said it didn't qualify for re-classification because restaurants are considered to serve a transient population while schools and day care centers are considered as non-transient because the same people are there all day every day. Only non-transient types of use have well protection zones that can come under re-classification to increase protection. Pierce also mentioned with oil spills you should dig up the soil and bag it and take it for disposal. But with gasoline, because it's so flammable, you should dig up the soil and put it in an open container to evaporate. This would mean putting it where it can't be rained on but where sun can shine on it, maybe someplace like an open porch. Gasoline contaminated soil shouldn't be bagged for disposal until after it's evaporated, flammable fumes could build up in a bag.

Harry Spear of Starch Mill Road requested an aquifer map. Bob will make an 11x17 and put it in his mail box if he is not home.

DRAFT Notes by Mark Archambault, NRWA

Pierce Rigrod, NHDES, also in attendance

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- Liz Fletcher opened the meeting at about 7:40 with an explanation of how Mason came to working on this groundwater reclassification project.
- Mark then went through an abbreviated version of Pierce's PowerPoint presentation to illustrate how groundwater reclassification works and provide examples of best management practices.
- After Mark's presentation, Liz opened the floor to questions:
- Bill Weiss, Old Ashby Road: Has the entire state gone through this reclassification process? Pierce responded that no, the entire state hasn't, but that upwards of a dozen or so communities have.
- Jen Nasser: Would groundwater reclassification (GR) affect road salting and the DPW's decisions on such? Pierce: No, it would not.
- John Lewicky, Starch Mill Road: He stated that he believes there is bedrock on his property that is shown to be in the stratified drift aquifer proposed for GA1.
- Neil Crathern, Lot E-40: Would GR effect construction equipment sitting on a site? Pierce: Not per se, though fueling operations and transfer of regulated liquids would be covered by the BMPs.
- Scott Crathern: Same concern – discussion ensued around this issue.
- Stanley Brown: **I didn't get question down in time...**
- Charlie Moser: How is GR enforced? Pierce described how under GR the local entity is supposed to take the initial lead in enforcement matters, but if the matter is not resolved at the local level that the NHDES can become involved if required.

- Carolyn Bennett: I didn't get question down in time...
- Lynn McCann, Mason Health Agent: She said it's her understanding that her primary role is to help educate the PCS owner / operators on proper practices and BMPs. Lynn doesn't want to start out in an adversarial manner in working with local businesses. Education is first and foremost.
- Mike Davieau, Owner of the Early Learning Center: Pierce explained that GR doesn't implement rules that don't already exist, but gives the local authority to check the PCSs on BMPs.
- A question came up about pesticide application at the Driving Range: Pierce mentioned that the application of pesticides and herbicides is addressed by other state and federal rules, and GR doesn't address it per se. However, the storage of such is addressed in the GR rules.
- Liz took an informal poll of the audience, asking who was in favor of pursuing GR. Better than half of the audience raised their hands in support.
- The meeting adjourned about 8:40.

Attendee List, Groundwater Reclassification Information Meeting

Paul Downey, Sand Pit Rd.
Catherine & George Schwenk, 177 Merriam Hill Rd.
* Paula & Jeff Babel, 323 Hurricane Hill Rd.
Veto Narkunas, 120 Pullman Rd.
Ben & Katherine Rafferty, 189 Pullman Rd.
Neil & Scott Crathern, Lot E40
Jim Tucker, Lot D27
Ellen Schimke, Lot E68
Cheryl & Michael Davieau, 483 Churchill Rd.
Pat Letouneau, 637 Wilton Rd.
M. Barbara Schulze, 562 Wilton Rd.
Walter & Lynn Roman, Darling Hill Rd.
Hsiao Ho, 35 Black Brook Rd.
Douglas Whitbeck, 756 Brookline Rd.
Pete LeCount, 236 Starch Mill Rd.
Harry Youngblood, 772 Wilton Rd.
Jennifer & Jeffrey Messer, 41 Old Ashby Rd.
John Lewiky, 928 Starch Mill Rd.
Stan Brown, 61 Darling Hill Rd.
Arthur & Joanne Birman, 39 Bell Ln.
Lynn McCann, 590 Valley Rd.
Joni Lane & Christopher Cook, 115 Fitchburg Rd.
Michael Droway & Maureen Vaillancourt, 482 Churchill Rd.
Donna Dills, 60 Barrett Hill Rd.
* Cynthia Hajjar, 60 Barrett Hill Rd.
* Stuart Sherman, 47 Gilman Hill Rd.
* Bob Larochelle, 958 Starch Mill Rd.
* Liz & Garth Fletcher, 288 Marcel Rd.
Barbara DeVore, 826 Wilton Rd.
* Bob Dillberger, 334 Campbell Mill Rd.

Anne Richards, 270 Campbell Mill Rd.,
Darrel Scott, 628 Sand Pit Rd.
* Anne & Charles Moser, Jeds Ln.

Attendee List, Lippin/Ellis Land Gift Hearing

* Stuart Sherman, 47 Gilman Hill Rd.
* Bob Larochele, 958 Starch Mill Rd.
* Liz & Garth Fletcher, 288 Marcel Rd.
* Bob Dillberger, 334 Campbell Mill Rd.
* Anne & Charles Moser (attorney for Drs. Lippin & Ellis), Jeds Ln.
Bob Lippin & Evelyn Ellis, Scripps Ln.
Barbara DeVore, 826 Wilton Rd.
Darrel Scott, 628 Sand Pit Rd.
Bill Downs, Morse Road

Lipin/Ellis E-36 land donation hearing (8:45 pm to 9:10 pm)

Liz introduced the donation stating E-36 which was cleanly logged 2 years ago and has a beautiful “v” valley carved by Rocky Brook. It was taxed at \$78 dollars for the year and abuts conservation land (Jeff’s pasture). Bob Lipin suggested naming the land the Bill Downs Forest and labeling a rock on site. Bill said he was flattered to be considered and reluctantly agreed to "Downs Forest".

Charlie would like to have a letter signed by the Cons. Com. given to him with the deed. Bob L. will email it tonight. He will try to get on the selectmen’s agenda for next Tuesday.

Liz made the motion to accept the E-36 gift. Stu seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept.