



Brainstorm Notes

Brainstorm Notes from June 7th
Squannacook-Nissitissit Rivers Sub-basins Public Meeting

Habitat

- Beavers in Squannacook
- Deer population increase with conservation land
- Vernal Pool ID in NH, more and better coordination between NH/MA state agencies; not good citizen involvement, network
- Townsend certifying vernal pools has booklet – recommend using youth groups (HS)
- Ash Swamp Extreme Motor Park concerns
- Pearl Brook Dam (and other dams) seasonal impact on habitat
- Affects of introduction of northern pike in mainstem Nashua moving up Squannacook and Nissitissit

Water Quality

- Brookline's commercial district is right over the aquifer; WQ in Brookline – lack of data – NH towns want more Water Quality data and help getting it
- Hollis zoning bylaw protecting aquifer looks like good model; Brookline has a vernal pool protection ordinance [Need to make successful bylaws available to towns. Need to get a legislator to sponsor legislation to get something based]
- "Abysmal state" of wetlands laws and enforcement in NH
- Water Quality concerns below Hollingsworth & Vose
- Melendy Pond – milfoil and Non-point Source Pollution
- Runoff from Rt. 119 into Squannacook at Main St. bridge and roads in general; Salt pollution prevents fishing
- Sedimentation in smaller tribs- backroads
- Townsend Rod & Gun Club – Bixby Reservoir area
- Pepperell water supply well (in Nissitissit basin)
- Would like to see Con Comms educate people about reducing fertilizer use that may enter waterbodies via storm drains; work with landscapers for better resource protection
- Dumps – locating public and environmental review – concern with Townsend landfill issues (adjacent to river)
- Harbor Pond dredging – weed removal

Water Supply

- Pearl Brook Dam (and other dams) seasonal impact on habitat
- Concern with Millie Turners dam – need to consider habitat evaluation before dams are removed
- Nissitissit in Pepperell investigate dam repair/removal

- Is there a need for the dams on both rivers? Do they still serve a function? Could we restore Atlantic salmon/ fish ladders?
- Water control/flow at H & V bypass volumes – how to control

Recreation

- Jet skis and other types of motor boats on the river (need to plan ahead)
- Rail Trail on old ice trail – trail washed out on Nissitissit near Beaver Brook
- Rails to Trails in MA concern with safety in Townsend WRT Road crossings – like bike/jog trails (question on impervious vs pervious surface of trail: desirable for horses on trails pave part leave rest as bridle path)
- Better control of dirtbikes - exclude from certain areas /dedicate areas for dirtbikes?
- Bike trail from H & V downstream – bikeways could be good for tourism as well as residents
- Salt pollution prevents fishing
- Effects of introduction of northern pike in mainstem Nashua moving up Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers and other tribs

Open Space (OS)

- Lack of local and state OS protection in NH
- Cluster development – concern that not the best lands are offered for protection – stringent guidelines on % of “developable” upland to be set aside
- Set open space protection goal higher than 25-33% to 50%
- Townsend Hill – good area for wildlife and corridors- protect
- Last big undeveloped area 800 acre in Milford will be coming before the planning board
- Belmont Spring, Pepperell property may soon be sold/ 250 acres to be protected
- Proposal to develop the Throne 600 acre area 100+ homes at “Academy Hill”
- Possible take over of part of Townsend State Forest (land swap for town riverfront parcel)
- Establishing CRs – land trusts may not be universally trusted – maybe a better known org could share ownership; coholder of CR
- Regional subdivision planning (e.g., consistent zoning and lot sizes throughout watershed) may be worthwhile; prefer conservation design to “cluster”; limit hammerhead lots (in Pepperell)

Quality of Life

- Traffic is out of control and very dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians on Rts. 13 & 119
- Brookline is the fastest growing town in NH with Mason next
- MA EO 418 will pose problem for communities that are not housing certified
- Need better ways to get to jobs; control sprawl