

Mills Task Force February 27 , 2009
 NH Preservation Alliance, 7 Eagle Square, Concord

MINUTES

Present: Colin Cabot, mill owner, Loudon
 Harley Savage, owner, Frye’s Measure Mill
 Charlie Daloz, owner Daloz Mill, Hancock
 Peter Ladd, dam owner, Warner
 Jim Garvin, NH Division of Historical Resources
 Nadine Peterson, NH Division of Historical Resources, dam review
 Nancy McGrath, DES, Dam Bureau
 Brian Desfosses, DES, Dam Bureau
 Gerry DeMuro, SPOOM
 Maggie Stier, NH Preservation Alliance

Following introductions, we brainstormed this list of problems and solutions:

Process Problems with Dam Ownership	Need Roadmap
Dams not yet perceived as green opportunity	Build awareness of green practices
Lack of funds for maintenance	Modernize resources to be compatible with economic and natural resource value
Urban settings equal higher risk	Get town-owned dam representation on task force
Economic viability	Group work toward solutions
Perception of dams as dangerous	Money for new program development
Building and site maintenance needs subsidizing	
Hard to find information	Need more outreach avenues
Historic preservation takes backseat to fishways and health of river arguments	Equalize money available for removing or repairing dams
Importance of dams to NH history is undervalued	Preservation advocates need to be part of the picture

We then discussed in depth some of these issues and what we, as a task force, might recommend doing.

People will best respond to four major themes and our key messages ought to be: the historic aspects of small water power, which is unique to New England; the recreational opportunities provided by dams; scenic value; and potential for green energy.

Engaging elected officials as part of the debate about dam preservation is vital. Gerry DeMuro noted that Hodes is already aware, Shaheen is interested as is Gov Lynch, and Sen. Gregg is involved through the Dept of Energy.

We decided not to engage with “radical conservation” groups, who typically use “fuzzy facts.”

We need to turn adversarial relationships into opportunities; seems like we could agree around “green” energy

Better define what this Task Force is.

So what would be “Breakthrough Strategies” for us?

- Nancy could send letter to all private dam owners, sharing new models, best practices, resources for preservation assistance. Perhaps Preservation Alliance could co-sign.
- Invite Amy Ignatius or someone else from the Office of Energy and Planning to join our task force.
- Send letters to town energy committee
- Explore OSHA and safety regulations relating to mills and dams.
- Engage existing small hydro-electric producers through Granite State Hydropower association
- Coordinate with SPOOM, which is already working on education programs
- Organize a bigger group with lots of members so we have clout and can do things
- Prepare more materials on hydro-power

Everyone agreed that another meeting would be good, and that we should expand the group. Ideas included

Amy Ignatius, OEP (Maggie will contact)

Allan Larder, Granite State Power (Colin will contact)

Chick Colony (Maggie to contact)

PSNH (Maggie to talk to Doris Burke for her recommendations)

Topics for next meeting, and presenters, will be as follows:

Vermont model: Peter Ladd

UNH study: Gerry DeMuro

Hear from new members (if present)

The next meeting will be Friday, April 3rd, 10 am to 12 noon at the Preservation Alliance.