

OSRP Update 7th Meeting

August 8, 2018 7:30pm

Attendance: Pat Smith, Eva Gibavic (Historical Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Leverett Trails Committee), Isaiah Robison (Conservation Commission), Miho Connolly (Conservation Commission, Leverett Trails Committee)

Blue = action items

Red = discussion item; needs input

Green = Administrative/minor corrections to be made

Second Draft of Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

- P. 4-3, Table 4-1: **Revise title to clarify intent. (possible example below)**
 - Table 4-1: *BioMap2* Statewide Summary
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| | Percent of State | Total Acres | Acres Protected in Perpetuity |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | |

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- P.4-4,5 : Removed info about climate from Amherst; replaced with MA Climate Change Projections (NE Climate Science Center)
- P. 4-6 Fig 4-1: corrected title
- P. 4-7 ~ 4-10: Geology section to be revised. **Laurie? Miho will also get in touch with Sheila and Mike**
 - **MAP: SOILS**
 - **To be reviewed**
 - P4-10: **Sentence to be revised:** "Glacial outwash surfaces have since been dissected by streams. Long Plain Brook, for example, has carved a small gorge in a delta that formed as a result of the glacial Lake Hitchcock."
 - P. 4-10: Added info on prime farmland soils; numbers to be added (Pat)
 - P4-11: **replace 'old library' with 'Field Family Museum (old library)'**
 - P4-11: 'C.1 Potential Changes in Development' has been removed here, as it is repeated later in section H.9 New Development
 - P4-12: Maps are now referred to by name, not numbers. Added info on Watersheds.
 - P4-13: Has been updated to consolidate rivers
 - **Eva will look into historic names associated with Unnamed tributaries 12 - 14**
 - P4-13 ~ 14: **Miho will reach out to the Friends of Leverett Pond again for their comments. (Mitch, Jim Field)**
 - P.4-14,15: Miho & Eva are working on getting more information on Leverett's wetlands by working with Ralph Tiner and his GIS dataset. Information from the 1970s has been removed
 - **Miho will reach out to Ralph to review wetlands section**
 - **MAP: Wetland Resources: to be reviewed by Ralph**
 - **Change vernal pool icons**
 - **Interim wellhead protection areas?**
 - **Wetland names?**
- P4-18 - 4-19: Removed FEMA flood hazard areas in preference for flood prone roadways identified in 2014 Leverett Hazard Mitigation Plan and 2010 Leverett Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

- *Although they are outdated (1980), the FEMA maps are the official source for flood hazard area delineation. They should probably be recognized as such. How/How much?*
- **Miho will check for updates to the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan and 2010 Emergency Management Plan; contact Margie to review?**
 - *Is Hemenway Rd really a flood hazard area?*
 - *Which Sawmill River Bridge?*
- P4-19: Added info on hardwoods, as forests in many nearby towns are mainly white pine. Incorporated feedback from Bill Wilson
- P4-19: "... disturbances in the past *two centuries* before colonial settlement."
- P4-20: *Tropical Storm Irene - add more local info/anecdotes?*
- P4-20: *Remove information about 1998 ice storm, as it did not have a significant effect in Leverett. Add date for 'Snowtober' -- October 31, 2011.*
- P4-22: Incorporated information from Fire Chief. **Confirm green section (re: 2010 brush fire)**
- P 4-22 ~ 23: Pat incorporated some neutral language as suggested by Mary Alice. More work needed in the forestry section to remove value statements. **Isaiah, Andrew to review**
- P. 4-24: Updated to include info that maple trees on Amherst Rd are dead/dying. Includes information on benefits of shade trees and USFS iTree program. *Continue to remove phrases with 'must' or 'should.'*
 - **Review by Ken Kahn?**
- P4-27: Added reference to moose. Removed erroneous information about salmon. *Photo by George LoCascio.*
- P4-28: Information on wood turtle observation updated. *Add information on Eastern Pearlshell mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)? (identified as a 'Species of Greatest Conservation Need' in the MA State Wildlife Action Plan, but not state-listed - rank 'SU')*
- P4-29: *'Brushy Mountain archaeological sites' to 'Brushy Mountain historical sites.'*
- P4-30 - 4-31: **Need input on Table 4-4: Significant Scenic/Historic/Natural Landscapes/Environments in Leverett**
 - Add info from historical resources survey - **Historical commission**
 - MAP: Significant Scenic/Historic/Natural Landscapes/Environments in Leverett**
 - Reviewed/confirmed locations
 - Try LIDAR for background. **Eva will send shape files to Pat**
 - Darken all roads to black
 - Add vistas? (Using a different icon)
 - **Isaiah will ask about the Hemenway Rd Floral Site location**
 - Honeymoon Falls Gorge no longer exists
 - *Where is the 'Long Plain Rest Stop'? What is its value?*
 - Sawmill River Waterfall - no public access, but is visible from road
 - 'Gutter Gateway' to 'Rattlesnake Gutter'
 - Add trails to the map
 - *Should we keep the polygons for Heritage Landscapes on the map? They are inaccurate, but match up with those mapped for the 2009 Heritage Landscape Inventory Report (DCR).*
 - *Should all conservation areas be mapped here? (i.e., should we recognize their scenic/historic/natural value here?) Or save for open space map? Should we map just some? Which?*
 - We will plan *not* to include places of worship on this map, *unless* they are of scenic/historic/natural importance

- P. 4-33, 4-34: **Eva: Include discussion on the impact of dying hemlocks on the Gutter (re: wooly adelgid)**
 - Dying trees => rock falls. Will require a lot of management by the Town to keep the trail open to hiking.
- P.4-34: Brownfields site has been identified
- P. 4-35: The Conservation Commission has no recollection of the ATV discussion, so no progress has been made. **This section could be reduced to an acknowledgement of the ATV problem only. (No solutions have been proposed.)**
- P. 4-36: incorporated info from Margie on leaching problem. **Miho to confirm number of families served by Housing assistance programs**
- P. 4-36: **Pat to send out letter from NHESP**
 - 'Unprotected land on Joshua hill, east of Route 63' is protected (? partially?)

Next meeting: Thu 9/20 or 9/27 @ 7:30pm, Leverett Town Hall