

## May 3, 2016 Squam Watershed Plan Steering Committee Meeting Notes

### Present:

Bob Snelling, Jeff Hayes, Tiffany Grade, Rebecca Hanson, June Hammond Rowan

Participating by Phone: Cindy O'Leary, Andrea LaMoreaux, Dave Martin

### Committee – Role & Purpose:

The overall purpose, role, and name of this committee was discussed. Part of the discussion centered on who will adopt the plan when it is complete. The consensus was that this committee is a steering committee with the primary purpose of steering the overall watershed planning effort. It is our responsibility to set strategy, goals, and objectives. Towns will need to buy into the plan since ultimately there will be actions for towns to take in implementing the plan. Documenting our steering process will also be important for creating transparency and good communication.

### Updates & Progress:

Rebecca provided an overview of her thesis work which will support the Squam Watershed Plan. She will be looking at the relationship between land cover and phosphorus for the watershed. This will include testing a model to assess its accuracy to determine the phosphorus load in selected tributaries. The benefit of this research will be to help address some of the EPA/DES requirements for the watershed plan.

Bob suggested that new data from Lidar might be useful for this research as new technology is revealing new information about drainage networks in that it is revealing more drainage channels. Incorporating this new information could impact the phosphorus loading. It is not clear if the Lidar data are available yet for the Squam Watershed and, if not, this idea could become a recommendation to be incorporated into the plan.

Tiffany asked about the definition of pollutants and suggested that looking for other pollutants beyond phosphorus would be useful. She outlined Loon Preservation Committee's recent work on new contaminants. It was agreed that it would be useful to have her present more information about this at a future meeting.

Rebecca reported that there is a second student at Plymouth State who will be working on phosphorus in Squam. She is focusing on the temporal patterns of when phosphorus is released during storm events. Her work will also provide useful information to the watershed plan.

June summarized the findings from Plymouth State students' work on interviewing stakeholders to determine key issues for the watershed plan (see attached short summary). A full report will be forthcoming. The report will help with developing a survey that will be implemented this summer at boat launches, campsites, and trailheads. It was suggested that on this survey we ask about why someone picked Squam over another lake or watershed. Other information that would be useful would include frequency of visits to Squam, determining what level of crowding are people willing to accept, the length of time spent in the watershed, and the amount of money spent in the watershed.

### Vision for the Squam Watershed Plan:

The committee discussed the need to develop a vision for the watershed plan. It was noted we need a vision for the plan (the purpose of the plan) and a vision for the watershed or resource. Rebecca and June will work on developing ideas for a visioning session in July and report back. One idea is to use key

words and ask people to arrange them in a way that forms a vision statement. Other ideas included getting input during the SLA Pancake Breakfast and also at SLNSC as part of their watershed exhibit. Town Master Plans also have vision statements that would be useful as a starting point. It was noted that the 1991 plan does not have a vision statement.

Next steps:

- Rebecca will be working on visiting area towns to update them on our work. She will work with the committee on this dates and hopefully people can join her at the area Planning Board meetings. She will first send a letter to the area towns.
- June will send out the report about the stakeholder interviews when it is completed.
- June will draft a survey and send it out for review and comments.
- June & Rebecca will work on developing and event for defining a vision statement.
- June & Rebecca will work on refining an outline for the plan.

Next Meeting:

A meeting date will be set for late June or early July, and another for late August.