

# **River Council**

## **May 8, 2007 Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Jim Hare, Jim Pfiffer, Scott Rodabaugh, Skip Mills, Bob Bailey, Doc Gee, Dave Grier, Keith Matthews, Debbie Peterson, Sam Draper, Rocci Aquire, Cheryl Box, Jennifer Miller, Don Hall, Jamie Johnson, Bob Butcher, Mike Hass, Rick Manning, Linda Couchon

### **1. Haas Team Tentative Scope of Work**

April-May: project initiation (van tour, data collection)  
June-July: preliminary master plan (design alternatives, charettes)  
July-August: implementation strategies  
September-October: final master plan  
October-November: summary report and public presentation

### **2. River Council responses to “What I expect/want from this River Plan”**

Results, practical, doable plan  
Have a theme to connect river corridor  
Betterment of Community  
River as economic asset  
River as a destination— create linkages to area assets, history, scenic views  
(Civil War camp, Revolutionary War, Native American history, walking tours, tourism)

Dam portage—safety issue  
Enhance launch sites - launch development  
Increase use of River  
Enhance current park(s)  
Running and walking trails  
Fishing and River accessibility -wheelchair access  
Fish ladder

Environmental protection- Clean Riverbanks, anti-dumping, water quality  
Environmental education  
Habitat buffer  
Part of Open Space Plan and strategies  
Gravel mining questions

Change flood stigma  
Appreciation of flood control  
Enhance flood protection  
Sewer line being put in under River

### **3. May 22 River tour, 9:30-3:30**

Purpose: Meet with River community stakeholders to better understand issues, priorities and visions related to river sites, segments and recreation.

Tour schedule attached with minutes.

#### 4. River trail related assets and issues

##### **Issues/concerns**

I86-- rescue access, access county route to river  
County sewer line to be replaced under river near Brand Park.  
Tioga Dam Release—sediment in river

##### **History**

Newtown Battlefield...Native American Village, Revolutionary War connections  
Chemung Valley History Museum in City across from River  
Underground RR designation and the John W. Jones Museum  
Woodlawn Cemetery  
Civil War prison camp  
Forbidden Trail  
Indian encampments along River  
Hendy homestead  
Mark Twain  
George Watters artist/Elmira College

##### **Parks/Recreation**

Old river trail  
Rte 64 scenic byway  
Harris Hill/National Soaring Museum/Soaring field  
Tanglewood Nature Center and River/Palisades overlook trails  
Bike route 17  
Waverly State Park  
Eldridge Park  
Catherine Valley Trail  
Dunn Field  
Lackawanna Trail  
Promenade in City

#### 5. Other

Distributed River Council contact sheet  
Sam Draper and Don Hall requested to be added to River Council

##### **Upcoming dates**

5/22/07 River tour  
5/23/07 Trails for the Southern Tier Conference  
6/9/07 River Fest 2007

##### **Next River Council meeting**

**Tuesday, June 12 at 3:00**

Room 110, 425 Pennsylvania Ave in Elmira