

Pownal Informal Public Forum
Center Station Fire House
June 13, 2007
6:30 -8 pm

Open Discussion:

1). What would you consider the watershed's most valuable asset?

- Residents
- Pristine streams, wetlands in Barber Pond and upstream areas
- Headwaters located in largely intact forested areas.
- Fishing! (Young and old alike)
- Farms and Farmers
- Green Mountain National Forest Public Access
- River well used
- Drinking water
- Water supply; link between surface and groundwater
- Batten Kill largely pastoral
- Batten Kill nearly pristine –little historical mill use and associated problems (except in Manchester)
- Wooded connection between Hoosic and Taconic Crest.
- Protection thru ownership by Pownal.

2). What are the threats to these assets?

- Some recreational use may involve a level of risk
- North Pownal may be due for a boom, including old race track- if we are proactive, we can make this an opportunity for enhancement of the river resources.
- Taxes (threaten open space preservation)
- No buffer requirements except in agriculture rules
- Lack of Buffers
- Lack of awareness
- Old septic
- intensive agriculture
- More roads and more impervious surfaces might follow N. Pownal boom
- North Pownal Dam...might also be considered an asset.

3). How can these threats/concerns be addressed/resolved in the next five years?

- Pownal Town Plan; form a subcommittee to suggest goals that are good for the river
- Engage the existing active groups (Ken will help contact one such group)
- GMNF folks working on the purchase of Broad Brook Lands.
- Proactive on low impact development bylaws and goal statements/plan (perhaps based on an overlay concept)
- Utilize the press and others to secure support

4). What are the different uses of the waters throughout the watershed?

- Fire Fighting (need a place in N. Pownal)
- Other municipal uses
- Ecosystem Service for all organisms
- Swimming and other recreational uses
- Real Estate Values of Waterfront
- Esthetics

5). What is your vision of the local waters?

- Ecologically sound and adds to the quality of life of its residents
- Fish you can eat!
- A new image for the river
- ["package" what we know about the river and get it out to the general public
(maybe use the HooRWA 2008 State of the Rivers Conference)]

6). What educational events/ trainings would be helpful?

- Educate the public i.e. safety and safely using the river
- Engage the schools in using the rivers as an education opportunity for students
- More outing for the adults in the watershed
- Geomorphology
- Conference with scientists and public; including all watershed groups in basin.