

# **Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee**

**Milford Police Facility, Milford, NH**

**January 19, 2023**

In attendance were members Celeste Barr (Milford), George May (Merrimack), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Peter Howd (Wilton), Rich Hart (Amherst), Ron Clements (Amherst), George May (Merrimack) and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.)

**Review of November and December Minutes-** Minutes accepted.

## **New Business**

**Pine Valley Joint Agency/Public Meeting, January 20<sup>th</sup>-** Cory will be attending this meeting. A link will be sent out for those that can attend online.

**Milford-**This is a resurrection of a proposal to amend a permanent Trail Easement on Souhegan River Trail to become a roadway for SVBoys and Girl's Club. The hearing with the Planning Board has been postponed to Feb. 21, 2023. This is not the first time this has been proposed. There was a proposal in 2016 and 2021 (withdrawn.) Hearing was supposed to be this month but has been postponed to February. The Boy's and Girl's Club want to have a one-way route for buses using their facilities. This would mean the current walking trail would be turned into a 10,000 sq. ft. roadway with only a 6" strip of grass to separate the road from the walking trail.

Gravel will have to be added to the roadway. There is no accommodations for snow storage. How does the Shoreline Protection Act fit into this plan? The Boy's and Girl's Club is a non-profit and this proposal would be for a private driveway

Peter noted that in 2021, HB82 was proposed in committee to allow conservation easements to be changed. This bill died in committee.

SoRLAC will send a letter to Milford Planning Board, Selectmen and Attorney General. The letter will reiterate what SoRLAC submitted in 2021

**Milford Shoreline Disturbance at 124 Bridge St.-** DES issued an order against property owner in 2014. There is a great deal of trash present on property which is getting into the river. The Conservation Commission let Celeste know about the disturbance. Cory will alert DES to the situation. Short discussion on Urban Compact Zones.

**Proposed Utility Line in Greenville and Wilton-NH** DOT proposed a utility line on Rt 31 along the scenic easement section. Marshall has sent a letter to the Commissioner of Transportation outlining the issue and questioning if this is in the highways right of way. This is from the Green Bridge to ½ mile south of King Brook Rd. This is an above ground that Comcast wants to put in. The line will cross the river. It will require permits within DOT. We have required another group further from the river to go underground and this project is above ground.

State of NH holds the easement on the property dating back to the 1960's. Marshall did not know if it was a gift, or it was paid for. Possibly Les Tallarico might know.

Marshall shared the letter to Peter so that he could notify the Conservation Commission there of the project and they could write letters as well. George will write a letter from SWA and Cory will write a letter from SoRLAC. Letters will be sent to Comcast, DOT, DES and Forest Society.

**Update-604(b) Grant** -grant has been submitted. Tracie is not sure when we will hear back. Cory has been working with Emma as well on the Corridor Management Plan.

**Sampling Plan**-Tracie is working with EPA to determine who will run test. Haven't heard back from EPA. Labs in Chelmsford can't do testing but is helping to find someone who can. It is on the EPA to find a lab that can do testing M-F and e-coli count. EPA said if we are intending to do testing during a storm or hi flow situation, they can provide us with a "Storm Kit."

**Corridor Management Plan**- It's time to engage towns and see what they want to see in a River Management Plan. We need to make sure what we put into plan is what will make it easier to get incorporated into towns' Master Plans.

Should we reach out to Planning Boards? We should reach out to towns' Conservation Commissions to let them know our intentions. It would be relevant to have their input now. Perhaps a letter with a follow up visit. George suggested we let them review a draft, but we need their input before making a

draft. The plan needs to “dovetail” to be inclusive to all towns. Peter noted that Wilton’s Conservation Commission is working on a comprehensive document to specify BMP (best management practices) and goals.

It is important that towns adopt the River Management Plan. It will make it more likely that they will write enforceable ordinances into their town’s Master Plans that protect water quality and other uses of the river.

We each need to contact our local Conservation Commissions and let them know our intentions and ask for their cooperation.

**Souhegan Watershed Association-** George would like to do Canoe trips again. Rich talked about it at December’s meeting. Cory would like SoRLAC sponsor some trips. We also discussed river cleanups, Sustainability fairs, and Earth day. Peter will check to see if the Sustainability fair is happening this year in Wilton. Set aside 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in April for some SoRLAC cleanup event.

**New Ipswich-** Nothing to report

**Greenville-** The individuals responsible for paying the fees for proposed drug rehab facility in one of the old mills has not paid fees so there is no progress on this site plan.

**Temple-** Nothing to report

**Wilton-** The developers for River's Edge have gotten Continuances for the last 3-4 months, so nothing is happening with that.

The lot on 31 South in Wilton owned by an individual named Somero where "tree working" trucks are being parked is in a floodplain. Rumors are that they are planning to submit an application to Planning Board. There have been no steps taken to address any fuel or oil leakages. Previously these trucks had been parked across from the DPW in Wilton but were kicked out as their presence interfered with a school playing field.

**Milford-** Carriage House at 754 Elm St. DES approved their permit to demolish and rebuild. Cory was skeptical of decision but DES said our objections were not pertinent to the Shoreline Protection Act.

**Amherst-** They have adopted a new Master Plan. Clean up day will be in April or May.

**Merrimack-** They procured \$100 to help with SWA's water monitoring program.

**RMAC-** George May and Cory Ritz attended the RMAC meeting and Cory was sworn into the RMAC. There was a presentation on the national effort to test rivers across the nation. The EPA is supporting an effort to do local rivers.

Studies on the Souhegan show that conditions for aquatic life and swimming are generally good.

Joe Smittle and Wayne Ives are finalizing and updating data on Souhegan River.

Other subject matter included what was going on with dams, announcement of a combined meeting with the Lakes Management , State mapping of contaminates.

There was also a presentation on the science and technology of Road Salt Management. You now need certification to apply Green Pro. Private and municipalities are the biggest polluters with road salt.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, Sec. February 1, 2023

Next Meeting 7:00 P.M. February 16, 2023. Milford Police Station