

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

127 Elm St, Milford, NH

April 21, 2022

In attendance were members Celeste Barr (Milford), Cam Lockwood (Temple), Rob Clemens (Amherst), Rich Hart (Amherst), Bill Mahar (Wilton), George May (Merrimack), Nelson Disco (Merrimack) and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich),

Milford Dog Park-Lincoln Daley was not able to join us for our site walk. We walked the Sewer Line behind the Brookstone Manor Apts. and viewed the area where the dog park is suppose to be installed. No one felt it was an appropriate place for a dog park but it seems inevitable that the Town of Milford will proceed with it.

These were our thoughts:

Why don't they use the existing parking lot at 127 for the dog park area as the proposed site is going to take a lot of work and involve building a small bridge to access. At present it is to be located behind an abandoned building. Kind of a creepy access.

Celeste and Nelson pointed out that they are using land that was originally designated "open space" land. It was a trade off for the building of Brookstone Manor Apartments. Is this really a proper use of Open Space land?

As Kleta objected to no plan for managing waste and she of little faith in good intentioned dog owners owning up to

cleaning up after their pets...Rob volunteered to research BMP for dog parks. He felt that this could be built and managed well but it needs more research and a plan needs to be agreed to by the Town on how it will be maintained. He felt it could be designed so that it has little impact on the river.

We would like to invite Lincoln Daley back to a meeting. We would like to put together a list of questions and suggestions to present to him beforehand.

What about lighting? Park next door closes at 10 p.m. or dark? Will the dog park be open same hours?

George felt that the area designated will need a great deal of landfill as it appears to be wetlands though it is not necessarily designated as that on the site map.

Lincoln did not forward to us a list of the other sites that were considered.

Can we make addressing removal and management of invasive species a condition of approval. There is a lot of Russian Autumn Olive on the property.

What about a boat launch on the site. There were several perfect places for boaters to put in or take out.

Approval of Minutes -March minutes approved.

New Business

SoRLAC Membership-See Cory's list in email dated 4/20/22. Update your nomination if need be. Form can be downloaded at:

https://www4.des.state.nh.us/blogs/rivers/?page_id=81

Submit to town.

NRCS Group talk for May-We will meet at Police Station. Ron said a representative from Conservation District and NRSS will be there. They will go over Best Management Practices of managing Riparian corridors. They will explain what their programs are and what their outreach entails. It is a starting point in educating us, and then we can reach out to the public at a later date.

Merrimack #40300 Souhegan River Pedestrian Trail-We discussed the revised Wetland Permit Application. We were impressed with the application and Rich will put something together to let them know we are okay with the project as presented. Later George commented that land up for consideration in Merrimack by the Conservation Comm. would be a good choice if mitigation is needed for the pedestrian walkway. Nelson noted that the land where the walkway is, no longer is in danger of flooding, now classified as an emergent wet meadow, and really isn't the wetland it once was.

Update on Pesticide Application from Matthew Bosiak-This was just an acknowledgement of our comments on the Ted Arcidi's property.

Watershed Management Plan-

Stakeholder's Registry is ongoing and there was discussion about contacting businesses. Their emails addresses are not easily procured.

Survey- Peter was not at the meeting to update us on news from NRPC

Nelson has more names to add but wants George to look over his list beforehand. This list was reviewed with George following the meeting and the list was given to Celeste to add inputs from the Town of Merrimack.

2022 NHDES Source Water Protection Conference May 24th- If you want to go, register at the American Ground Water Trust website: www.agwt.org.

Local Updates-

Souhegan Watershed Association- George will be speaking in Wilton Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 P.M. at the Wilton Collaborative Space, 2nd Congregational Church Hall, 25 Gregg St. Wilton. You need to reserve a spot (so they know how many chairs to provide) To do so please email: dandn4evah@tds.net

New Ipswich- Nothing to report

Greenville- Nothing to report

Temple-nothing to report

Wilton-nothing to report

Milford-Nothing more to report

Amherst-nothing to report

Merrimack-Two properties that we have reviewed and commented on in the past have been revisited by members of our board, the condos near the Overlook by Chamberlain Bridge and the Funeral Home. Nothing has happened at the Funeral home. They have not added to their parking lot. The Overlook condos have done a very nice job at their site. Also the Conservation Commission is looking at 2 properties for acquisition. This prompted George to suggest that maybe one of them could be mitigated if need be for wetlands displaced in the Merrimack Pedestrian boardwalk.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, Sec. April 21, 2022

Next Meeting 7:00 P.M. May 19, 2022. Milford Police Station