

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Facility, Milford, NH

August 18, 2022

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Celeste Barr (Milford), Bill Mahar (Wilton), George May (Merrimack), Peter Howd (Wilton), Rich Hart (Amherst) and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.)

Minutes- We did not second minutes as June's minutes need correcting. Cory will send corrections to Kleta and July's minutes were not ready for consideration.

New Business

New Ipswich, 50 Matson Rd.-Map 13, Lot 76.3, Meridian Engineering. This is a driveway with a culvert for Matthew Moran in order to develop 9.35 A into 2 lots. There will be no impact to wetlands. We thought the design looked good.

There was a short discussion about turtles and how Fish and Game alerts crews working on projects of endangered species. There needs to be a better way to insure care is taken to protect the subjects.

Old Business

Grant Proposal for Watershed Management Plan- There were 52 responses to our survey. Peter went through and reviewed each question and explained how responses were scored. This was basically a review of the previous week's Zoom meeting.

There was a portion of the survey that individuals were able to provide written responses and Cory suggested we review those. Five people said there were interested in volunteering and they will be contacted.

There is 160K in State grant money available ((604b.) It will be split amongst several groups but could be as much as 30K. Cory has had ongoing conversations with SWRPC, NRPC and Tracie Sales at DES concerning the grant. SWRPC does not have the ability to help us write this grant. Jay at NRPC is willing to take this on. Cory has put together an initial draft of the application and sent it off to Tracie. We originally wanted to do Bacterial tracing, E.coli testing, Pfas, microplastic and other testing but all of that would be too costly. Eric Doberstein's water monitoring team could do some of the testing and members of the committee are willing to do some as well, however some of the testing requires protocols and training that we cannot provide. DNA deteriorates quickly and is tricky to handle. It would be important that it was delivered to a lab a.s.a.p. Celeste has been in touch with Jack Parr a microbiologist, for EPA Region 1 laboratory that works in MA and NH. He estimates that testing could cost approximately \$500/test. We would want 18-20 tests done over several sites, probably 3 times.

Cory reminded us that it was important to state in our application what we are going to do with the funds (testing) and what are we going to do about the results of what we find out. We probably should rename our plan Corridor

Management Plan and present it as an update of the 2006 plan. For instance, what has changed in the land use since 2006.

This is what Jay at NRPC can do for us. Even if we are unable to do all of the testing we want, we can bring it to the attention of the State the need to do so. Detectable levels of concentration of things have changed greatly since 2006 as have the acceptable level of contamination. Rich felt the need to test at different water levels and conditions was important. He pointed out that we don't know if the Pfas are in the rainfall or in the aquifer. Testing for Pfas is \$350/test and protocol for handling test samples are extraordinary.

Discussion followed on other items we would need to include in plan, such as identifying superfund sites. Our water monitoring hours and volunteer hours need to be considered.

How we disperse the grant money will need to be determined. NRPC will need a share for Jay's work.

Short discussion on Bacterial testing done in the past. We will focus on sites where we know E.coli has been a problem, thanks to Eric's army of water monitors. Rob has offered to approach Amherst for money to cover sites in that town. Having partnerships with the town and other organizations will help with attaining the grant.

Cory will do a little more research to decide what other testing we might want to do and will continue working on draft and with Tracie and Jay. The proposal is due by 15th of Sept., but it needs to go to NRPC sooner. The grants will be awarded in the spring of 2023.

It should include recommendation for getting the Corridor Plan incorporated into towns' Master Plans. Peter said he already has it on the agendas of the Conservation Committee and Planning Board of Wilton. There should be ways of addressing "environmental justice". Other elements would include culverts, permitting procedures, etc.

As an aside....Celeste mentioned that the fence put up around Watson Park came down. It was posted on the town's website.

[Watson Park \(merrimackparksandrec.org\)](http://merrimackparksandrec.org)

Souhegan Watershed Association-

New Ipswich- Kleta reported that the Conservation Commission had done a walk on a piece of property that has been purchased by Dixie Blease and offered to the town. This property is interesting because it has the penstock on the Souhegan that use to supply water to the mills. Dixie has also offered an easement on her property to access the property. The matter has gone before the Selectmen as to whether the town will move to accept the property. Dixie has offered to maintain mowing on the easement she is providing, but it was unclear who would maintain the easement in the future. The penstock itself was not in great shape, with many areas rusted though the pipe.

https://nihist.substack.com/p/the-waterloom-penstock?s=r&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web

Greenville- Nothing to report.

Temple- Nothing to report

Wilton- Conservation Commission is working on opening a new reservoir, Sand Hill, for the town, locals only. It will be for swimming, fishing, boating. Trails will be developed. They are working on regulations.

River's Edge is back before the Planning Board. Still working on issues with the development.

Milford- Nothing to report that is new but Celeste shared a news item with us about Ted Arcedi. This was originally sent to us by Rob Clemens in an email dated July 28th.
<https://patch.com/new-hampshire/milford-nh/former-wwf-wrestler-saves-125-acres-farmland-milford-watch>

Amherst-Working on Master Plan and will reference the River's Master Plan. A number of towns are adding the River's plan as an addendum for addressing climate change. Rich felt every town needs to consider having a plan on how they are going to handle changes due to climate change, i.e. floods, power generation issues, etc. Things to cut cost to taxes.

Amherst is addressing a petition by concerned citizens that the ACC and Town consider non-chemical options for treating invasive species on Town properties, and commit to improved notification of abutters when invasives management projects are proposed.

Merrimack-Nothing to report.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, Sec. August 22, 2022

Next Meeting 7:00 P.M. Sept, 15 2022. Milford Police Station