

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

October 20, 2022

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Eric Doberstein (Merrimack), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Peter Howd (Wilton), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Cam Lockwood (Temple), Robert Clemens (Amherst), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich).

Approval of Minutes -Approved August 2022 minutes. September's meeting was cancelled.

New Business

Alteration of Terrain, Savage Rd. Milford self -storage-file Number 20221003-175-Possily reviewed this in 2005. This is in the flat area behind Market Basket. There is already a building there and a drainage system is in place. All stormwater will be treated on site, so no run-off is anticipated. It is not in the floodplain. They have outlined areas for snow storage. There is a tree planting plan. We will send them a letter thanking them for the opportunity to comment but we have no comments.

Information update: Merrimack River Sampling Programs Roundtable-Eric attended this meeting with George (via phone.) Eric presented to us what he had presented to them, a brief slide presentation of water monitoring on Souhegan from summer of '22. He explained the process and the test that were done and ended with some impressive conclusions on spikes in E-coli. Which appears to be tied to temperature fluctuations. Eric's report is included here in an appendix. The information will also be sent in an email following meeting.

Discussion followed on what training is necessary so that our samples would meet State protocols, where we would test in the future and how to engage the public with the impact of the monitoring. One current site has a kiosk where results are posted. In the past George has contacted Monadnock Transcript-Ledger and they published results. Going forward, who should be responsible

for posting information, where? SWA is in decline, perhaps because it began with a social aspect that is no longer viable, but we feel it is necessary to engage the public in the importance of water quality.

Short discussion on the lack of regulation on nitrates, too much is being dumped into our rivers. Interesting statement was made that 98% of flow in the Concord river is from sewage. There is a need to continue building data on water quality.

River Management Plan- We need work on getting our Watershed Management Plan into the Master Plans of the towns. Cory outlined a plan for achieving this which included collecting data from each town's current Master Plans and scheduling meeting with Planning Boards to sell them on the need to have our Watershed Management Plan integrated into the town's Master Plans. Eric pointed out that we need to present the risk of not having it included and named a few of the "root issues" to mention when doing a presentation. These included how water quality affects property values and potential oversight from EPA. It was pointed out that it is much easier to control water quality at the point of permit processing than to go in after an individual has begun development. The town needs to be in control of means of insuring water quality. That is through zoning regulations. Peter explained that the Planning Boards put together the Master Plan which then goes to Select Board for approval.

SoRLAC needs to come up with phrasing that references current Watershed Plans and allows for updating the plan to become automatic in the future towns' Master Plans. Someone asked if NRPC (Nashua Regional Planning) could be helpful with this, and it was pointed out that most of NRPC's work is involved with transportation issues. Cam commented that SWRP (Southwest Regional Planning) spent a lot of effort dealing with Brownfields and housing issues.

Rob (~~Rob please rephrase as necessary~~) reported that Amherst's Conservation Commission has been working on a Water Resource Initiative and getting it into the Master Plan. It should be done by December. It focuses on flooding and stormwater management, Pfabs, recreational interest and future housing issues. There is a whole section on wetlands and buffers but there is no mention of E-coli. He felt it would be appropriate for Cory to come and talk. **I presume this is to PB in support of CC's plan?**

Cory asked Peter if he could come up with language for getting our plan into Master Plans. He also felt we needed a pamphlet or something stating why we think it's necessary to be addressed.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association-Nothing to report

New Ipswich-Moran's Wetlands Application was not accepted. DES wants more information.

The property with the Penstock on it will probably not be accepted by the town. The Conservation Committee voted not in favor of having the town accept the property.

Greenville-A piece of property has been donated to the Conservation Commission.

Temple- Working on trails

Wilton-Town put a Cease and Desist Order on lumber cutting at the 101 Variety on 101 (next to House By the Side of the Road.) They were cutting too close to the road.

River's Edge is seeking continuances from the Planning Board. They have hired a lawyer.

There is a convergence of a church on Maple Street. It is being turned into housing. Paving the parking lot will probably put them before our board in the near future.

Fire Station is looking for a new site to build. Looking at a site on Rt. 31 that use to be a gravel pit and sits on top of an aquafer. Might be a problem. It's on the agenda **Whose agenda? CC or PB?**

Discussion turned to a lot on Rt. 31 owned by an individual in New Ipswich. There are a lot of bucket trucks parked on the lot. Probably aren't any precautions taken to contain any fuel and oil spills. Cory would like SoRLAC to comment on this.

Cam asked about the junk yard behind the Pit Stop restaurant.

Milford-Nothing to report.

Merrimack- Nothing to report.

Amherst- There will be the Master Plan's draft review in December. Conservation Commission presented a Water Resource Initiative to the Planning Board. They have also asked for budget request of \$3,000.00 for water testing.

Rob would like to talk to Eric about water testing.

Open Space land acquisition is in progress. Pricing was an issue.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Milford Police Station

Submitted by Klea Dudley, sec. October ??, 2022