

Minutes of Souhegan River

Local Advisory Committee

Home of Cory Ritz, New Ipswich, NH

December 15, 2022

In attendance were members Celeste Barr (Milford), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Peter Howd (Wilton), Rich Hart, Rob Clemens & Eric Doberstein (Amherst), and Tracie Sales (NHDES)

Review of November Minutes- Committee decided to wait until January to approve November minutes so Kleta could make a few changes.

Pine Valley Hydroelectric Dam-in Milford will be starting the relicensing process (traditional process). SoRLAC will be expecting to receive notifications about the public hearings that are part of the licensing process. FERC and NHDES are involved in the process. There is expected to be comments on the fact that currently this “Run of the River” licensed dam is allowed to hold back water as long as the daily average is maintained.

Horseless Carriage Auto Body Plan -Elm Street Milford was reviewed by the committee. All structures will be razed on the existing site and a new larger building built further back from the road, Rt 101A and thus further from the river.

Overall, impervious surfaces will be reduced by ~ 18%.

SoRLAC appreciates the new plan which appears to be an

improvement over the current use of the site. Our letter will ask 1) about the procedures for the storage of chemicals and fuel on the site and 2) why permeable pavers are being used near the road (We hope that this area of the site will not be used for parking) and 3) what is the plan for snow removal? Also the plans cite codes for Manchester: will the demolition process meet the codes of Milford NH?

DNA analysis of E. coli -NHDES will be reaching out to US EPA Reg 1 for bacterial DNA testing. We have proposed 8 sites for sampling on the river. 2 sampling events during storms plus 2 sampling events during low flow conditions. We are hoping that EPA can do the standard summer E. coli testing on the river as well. One idea is to have SoRLAC collect the storm samples and have the EPA collect the low flow samples. Tracy said she has some DES commitment to provide samplers as well. We will wait to hear back from EPA and DES.

Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan

Cory is meeting with Jay at NRPC on 12/19 to determine what SoRLAC members need to contribute to the river management plan. We wish the management plan to be actionable by the towns rather than just a collection of data and history.

Each SoRLAC member is requested to upload water or specifically river resource management information from their

LOCAL UPDATES:

Souhegan Watershed Association-Eric is evaluating the E. coli analysis capacity of area municipal labs in preparation for summer 2023.

New Ipswich- Nothing to report

Greenville-Marshall reported that there is an application being made for a rehabilitation facility for Columbian Mill Building #6. This has not been approved by the Planning Board. There are some parking issues to be worked out. This mill is on the river.

Temple- Nothing to report

Wilton- No news on River's Edge proposed development.

There has been a code enforcement violation issued by the Town of Wilton on the parking lot on Rt 31 (where an old mill building was torn down?)

The "New Reservoir" Dam in Wilton has experienced a failure. Emergency repairs have been undertaken on the base of the dam in the interim while longterm repairs are

considered.

Milford- The Conservation Commission shared their draft Conservation plan update with SoRLAC.

No news on the proposed dog park.

Amherst-The new draft Master Plan contains a significant amount of information on the Souhegan River.

Merrimack-Nothing to report

It was suggested that towns that are updating their master plans include a reference to the existing Souhegan River Management plan and subsequent updates.

NHDES- NHDES is building a new LAC website currently to contain resources and information each LAC wishes.

Rivers Management Advisory Committee-Cory Ritz has been nominated to represent LACs in NH> The committee examines statewide issues of rivers.

Submitted by Celeste Barr. December 18, 2022

Next Meeting 7:00 P.M. January 19 2023. Milford Ambulance Station