

SoRLAC

Milford Police Station, Milford NH

August 19, 2021

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Rob Clemens (Amherst), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Cam Lockhart (Temple), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich), George May (Merrimack), Rich Hart (Amherst), and Peter Howd, (Wilton)

Approval of Minutes from July 2021 - Approved

Business

Amherst Canoe Launch- This is an Eagle Scout project to improve public access to an existing canoe port just off 122. The land is owned by the Amherst Country Club and the Amherst Conservation Commission has an easement on it. Rob Clemens suggested this project when the scout approach the Con. Comm for suggestions. The Amherst Conservation Commission has final responsibility for the project so Rob working with the scout on the project. He had directed the scout to contact DES concerning any permits. He admits the paperwork for the project have been challenging. He is asking for a letter of support from SoRLAC. Abutting parcel owners need to be identified and a letter of support from abutters will be sought. Cory will write a letter to Tracy Sales affirming that we are in favor of this project as it improves accessibility to the River.

The project involves building a sets of steps and a conveyance slide with rollers to get boats into the river. Steps and Conveyance slide will be of pressure treated lumber but the structure will be raised off the ground, mounted on metal post. The entire structure is 21' x 6'.

River's Edge Subdivision- Michele Decoteau from Wilton's Planning Board contacted Peter Howd Aug. 19th seeking input about some issues with the River's Edge Subdivision. Primarily questions to do with how distance from the river's edge is measured when the subdivision is set very high above the river. The subdivision is not in the floodplain but is in riparian zone. Discussion followed on how we determine proximity and if they would need a shoreline permit. This

subdivision has not come before our committee yet and no State permits have been filed for. Technically the developers have complied with all town regulations. Should the Planning Board deny them permits to go forward, it would go before the Zoning board then to court. It is being built by Glendale Homes and they are open to the idea of donating an easement to allow parking for river access. They will be connecting to town water at the junction of the entrance drive and 101.

We had so many questions about this subdivision - the road being a dead end, the amount of impervious surface, the septic arrangements, stormwater management, snow removal, amount of terrain to be altered (test "pits" for septic don't even exist yet as they are apparently in areas yet to be filled in). 3 of the lots encroach on wetland setbacks., water quality issues due to septic and fertilizers. We would want a stormwater management plan. There is a intermittent creek on the site. It was decided we needed to do a site walk. Cory will put together a letter with our concerns and request a site walk for Friday Sept. 3. The last site walk was done under very dry conditions but as we have had a lot of rain, we may be able to get a better idea of how drainage is going to flow. To access plans, https://www.wiltonnh.gov/government/boards_and_committees/planning_board/cases

To see a letter that the Wilton Conservation Commission has sent regarding this development you can go to the Wilton Planning Board's website.

Watershed Management-

[Souhegan River Watershed Management plan \(2013\)](#)

[Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan \(2006\)](#)

Cory would like the committee to own the watershed plan that is put together. He has asked us to review the former plans before next meeting. He felt the 2013 plan was very focused on Instream Flows and rules and the 2006 plan was too general. We discussed funding as the drinking water grants are coming up and we probably won't have anything together in time to submit a proposal for those funds. There are other sources. We

discussed topics that we would like to see covered in the plan, such as stream water quality, can we influence type of development, increase public access, effects of climate change, how to reduce flooding etc. Cory felt we should come up with objectives and then pursue funding. It was also noted we should share efforts for water testing with other towns.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association- Third and final water test is August 31. Hoping to get new website up this week and looking to revitalize the organization.

New Ipswich- Nothing to report

Temple- Still discussing wells

Greenville- Nothing to report

Wilton-The Stormwater management team in Wilton are excited about the water testing and e-coli results. They have gotten permission to test at Horseshoe Falls from the new owner. They are in the process of creating a map of the stormwater drains and culverts. Cory asked if they were evaluating for wildlife passage and noted there are tool that have been developed to keep track of this.

Milford- Nothing to report but someone asked about the sign directing people to not eat the fish caught while fishing. Bill notes he had done so recently and was still with us and felt fine. It is confusing as DES has closed the claim on this project. Rob thought there was a period of time that monitoring would take place and warnings needed to remain in place He will look into this.

Merrimack- Nelson still working on the trail. The foot bridge that was free needs restoring as it is corroding. Will probably be expensive.

Amherst- Amherst will be paneling an Open Space committee as a result of passing a 6 Million dollar bond to fund purchase of property. They are interested in finding property along river. A lady that was boating on Baboosic Brook found five beaver dams which might be contributing to the rise in Baboosic Lake's level . She was concerned about the loss of

shoreline for individuals living lakeside. There will be additional water testing on Beaver Brook which could be the source of e-coli readings. Rich is working with Conservation Commission to remove invasives on school property. One of the teachers there wants the students to become involved. This will be a decades long project.

Next Meeting, Sept. 16, 2021

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, sec. Aug 23, 2021