

## SoRLAC-Online

February 18, 2021

*Chair Ritz called the meeting, conducted via online meeting, to order at 7:00 PM under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, as allowed by Emergency Order 11 under Executive Order 2020-04 in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Secretary Dudley conducted a roll call.*

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Celeste Barr (Milford), Rob Clemens (Amherst), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), George May (Merrimack, and Peter Howd, (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack.) Guest Peter Zaykoski (Merrimack)

### **Approval of Minutes from January 2021- Done**

#### **Business**

**River's Edge Residential Development- an early preview, not a formal review-** Wilton's Planning Board met with the River's Edge people on Wed. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. They were working on sewer and septic issues. The homes will probably have individual septic but shared leach fields. They will have town water. The site walk has been postponed till spring so that topography, wetlands and drainage can be viewed. They would like to connect to town sewer but the town may have issues with the cost to do so. They probably will want to have the road maintenance taken over by the town as well, but the roads would have to be brought up to town specs. The River's Edge people have reached out to Cory asking SoRLAC to make a ruling and send it to the town but Cory explained that we need DES to send us more information. We would like a presentation from River's Edge. We have a "wish list" and questions that we could present to them at their presentation. The pointer for our wish list is:

[https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/w-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2F1drv.ms%2Fw%2Fs!BGMn5dh1OT5xuyT-IWc6-G4KKWea%3Fe%3DbGL23Ce7P0Gxh1\\_gMx5MOQ%26at%3D9&data=04%7C01%7Ccritz%40battelleecology.org%7C1a946617deb14b464e2b08d8d4596102%7Cf44d2ab390994d85998610165a8619f5%7C0%7C1%7C637492827649599831%7C](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/w-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2F1drv.ms%2Fw%2Fs!BGMn5dh1OT5xuyT-IWc6-G4KKWea%3Fe%3DbGL23Ce7P0Gxh1_gMx5MOQ%26at%3D9&data=04%7C01%7Ccritz%40battelleecology.org%7C1a946617deb14b464e2b08d8d4596102%7Cf44d2ab390994d85998610165a8619f5%7C0%7C1%7C637492827649599831%7C)

[Unknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QZgu7m%2FeLhY2b43g2rss1%2B4sZ6zl6iafqgQnRUbaxA0%3D&reserved=0](#)

The hearing with the Wilton Planning Board has been extended to March 17<sup>th</sup>. It is presumed that they have asked for a meeting with Conservation Commission as well.

This subdivision is done under Cluster Subdivision rules. Open Space has to remain open, and in exchange the developer gets to create smaller lots in clusters.

George suggested we respond to them with a letter mentioning the septic issues, asking about snow storage on site and ask who is doing plowing. Invite them to give a presentation. Also, we need their AOT (Alteration of Terrain) application.

There was a question as to whether there would be public access provided to the River. Rob pointed out that was the hallmark of what we are trying to achieve along the entire corridor. Peter Howd said the Conservation Commission wanted to send the same message.

At this point, Peter Howd mentioned for our information that there was an exposed water main pipe on the bottom of the Souhegan.

Cory will write a letter to the River's Edge people and CC the Wilton Planning Board and Conservation Commission. The letter will invite them to a meeting to so a presentation and send them our wish list

Peter Zaykoski inquired what we were looking for in the plans. He used the example of rain gardens being mentioned (not necessarily in these plans but for an example) and asked if we looked at what was planted in them. Did we make the recommendations etc. Cory said we should work on making a plant list more available.

**MVC Eye Care-** DES was able to get the name of the contractor doing the unpermitted excavation at this site from some photos that George took. A letter was sent to the owner and informed them of their need to procure an A-T-F (after the fact) permit. Milford Conservation Commission thought it was "all set." DES has turned it over to a Compliance Group. George ask that if there is some fine involved if we can ask for some of the money to go to something related to the Souhegan River for some upgrades somewhere or education. George had

talked to the guy doing the excavation that day and felt the guy had no concern for the River. There is no outlet to the wetlands on the site, just a pond. Leighton White was the contractor. Do we know if there is a precedence for something like this?

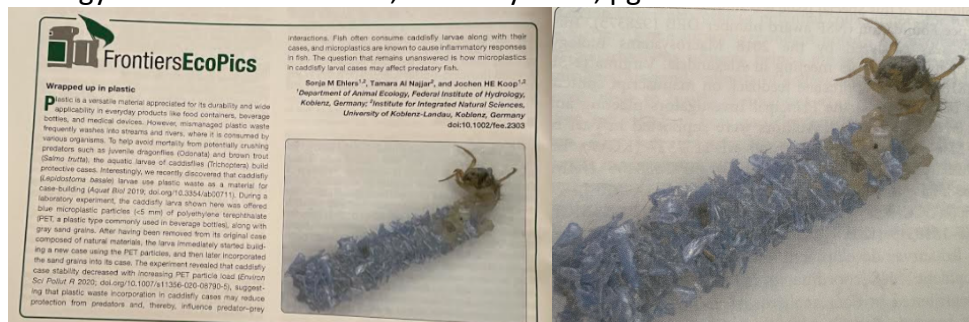
**Crosby Townhouse Plans-** Celeste's friend Chris who is on the Milford Conservation Commission sent these plans to us. It is on their agenda. Coming from Milford town center, this project is just before the Granite Town Plaza (where the Tractor Supply is.) There use to be an old farmhouse there. It is uphill from a proposed dog walk we reviewed awhile back. There was discussion as to whether we would hear about this as we are uncertain of its distance from the river. Cory was going to talk to Tracie about it. We were uncertain how far it was from the River, but it is outside of 100 year floodplain. We thought we should send the Conservation Commission our "wish list" so they could pass it out to applicants. We decided to send the "wish list" to Meridian as well.

**RMAC-** Cory inquired if anyone had gone to the meeting. Rob tried but had equipment issues. Tracie Sales sent out a blog noting Legislative tracking. Might want to check this out.  
[https://www4.des.state.nh.us/blogs/rmac/?page\\_id=624](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/blogs/rmac/?page_id=624)

## Item of Interest

In an experiment...

- Clean those streams! Plastic wrapped caddisfly. Larvae will use what they have in the environment. Experiment showed caddisfly housing does not have to be natural materials. NOT A STREAM PICTURE – EXPERIMENT IN LAB; *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, February 2021, pg. 46



**Other Online Meetings-** none mentioned

## **Local Updates**

**Souhegan Watershed Association-** Website is still not up. Peter and George working on it.

**New Ipswich-** Nothing to report.

**Temple-** Nothing to report

**Greenville-**Nothing to report

**Wilton-** River's Edge, covered already. Cam (from Temple) was unable to attend tonight's meeting but does want to go on the River walk for River's Edge. Peter will let us all know when it is rescheduled.

**Milford-**Concerning the Garnet Property by Veteran's Bridge on North River Rd. Conservation Commission alleges he is running gravel. The Town has asked him to stop. The State has not taken action. He was given a permit which allowed him to do some work on a ridge, but he has moved a lot of "dirt."

The old Milford Cabinet building by the Swinging Bridge is being made into residences. Celeste was not sure how many units there will be. Parking will be an issue.

Celeste reminded us the Riparian project we had planned last year for a steep slope near the Boys and Girls' Club which was cancelled because we were told the plantings would not survive because the spot was too steep and too dark. She got a note from the Boys and Girls' Club inquiring if we wanted to share in an effort to do some environmental education in that section of the river. The gentleman that contacted her is applying for grants. His intent is that the kids work on the project, determining the subject and scope.

Celeste participated in a Leave No Trace Program this week and received lots of useful information. We are urged to look at the site.

Video Library: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LeaveNoTraceCenter>

Resources: <https://lnt.org/research-resources/>

Training: <https://lnt.org/get-involved/training-courses/>

Leave No Trace Basics: <https://lnt.org/research-resources/leave-no-trace-basics/>

Covid Resources: <https://lnt.org/research-resources/covid-19-and-leave-no-trace/>

**Merrimack-** Nelson reported a couple of projects, neither affected the river but were nearby and worth mentioning. The Planning Board reviewed and approved a small business building near the Overlook site. For Merrimack's 275 anniversary, the town is talking about building a wooden covered bridge over Baboosic Brook. This is a site that already has a bridge, a cover will be added. Apparently, this is something a lot of towns are doing for anniversaries.

**Amherst-** Rob is looking into e-coli spikes in the Souhegan around where Beaver Brook enters. The Eagle Scouts would like to participate in a clean up of the River and improving the Canoe Port. Rob says it is used mostly as a put in. They want to improve access. George noted there is a lot of poison ivy in the area. Ron says they've been managing it in a spot near the High School with treatment and signs and that might be the spot George is thinking about. At any rate, the need to monitor it is on the radar.

Next Meeting, Mar. 18, 2021 online

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, sec. Feb. 19, 2021