

**Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory
Committee
Police Station, Milford New Hampshire
December 16, 2021**

In attendance were members Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Peter Howd (Wilton), George May (Merrimack), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Rob Clemens (Amherst), Celeste Barr (Milford) and Camilla Lockwood (Temple).

Approval of Minutes -October 2021 minutes approved. Ready to be sent to NRPC.

Watershed Management Planning

Cory shared a summary of our watershed protection brainstorming session from October 2021. The group fine tuned the list of priorities as follows (see below). Cory suggested that phase 2 would include stakeholders and their input. It was noted that the Exeter River LAC received a small grant to use toward UNH Grad students doing a wetland buffer and functions analysis on that river.

Watershed plan goals included the following:

Preface should include education.

Major project goals of this watershed management plan:

1. Develop a watershed management plan that is straightforward and available to use by local organizations, community representatives, municipalities or other stakeholders either individually or through collaborative efforts. (Promotion/communication)
 - a. Do we include education?
2. Promote watershed management decision-making based upon sound scientific information and by incorporating known and forecasted changes

due to changes in the climate and land use trends within the watershed.
(Science based)

- a. Promote additional scientific sampling and evaluation
3. Improve water quality in the river to support recreational uses for total and partial bodily contact. (Water quality).
4. Improve water quality and instream flow in the river to support aquatic and wildlife habitat. (Water quality)
5. Manage the river as an aesthetically pleasing and accessible area. (Community based)
6. [Diversity of uses / mixed use river] – remove or include
7. Reduce pollution by managing the watershed stormwater drainage to reduce the effect from non-point source pollution and minimize the impact from industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential development along the main stem of Souhegan River and tributaries. (Water quality)

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association- George said the revised Souhegan Watershed Association website is better but he is not satisfied with the display of historic monitoring data for the last 20 years

. <http://souheganriver.org/>

He hopes to get some help with this task.

He does expect there will be water quality monitoring testing during the summer of 2022. Stay tuned.

New Ipswich-Nothing to report

Greenville-Nothing to report

Temple- The SW Regional Planning Commission hopes to do a Natural Resource Inventory with the Temple Conservation Commission.

Wilton- The Proposed River's Edge project proponents attended Wilton Planning Board Meeting on 12/15 with a new developer. The land owners are investigating connecting the property to town water and sewer.

The Intervale Hardware store was purchased by a landscaping company and is being restored. It will not be multi-family dwelling as initially proposed.

Peter H will inquire about the clearing of a lot on Rt 31 south.

Milford-Conservation Commission mentioned in their update that Steve Trombly may want to 'replicate what Mr. Arcidi did on the Hayward property along the Souhegan River' [clear the river bank of mature trees and other vegetation] on his properties on the north side of the Souhegan.

Rob will contact NRCS to ask if they have heard anything about this proposal. Celeste will contact the Town Clerk and Selectmen's secretary if any Intent to Cut Forms have been submitted. We would like to contact the County Forester and perhaps NH Forest & Lands again to ask the definition of a Timber Harvest.

Amherst-The Canoe Launch, an Eagle Scout project, at the 122 crossing finally is complete (photos on SWA Facebook page)

Merrimack- The Woodbury Street Sidewalk project has been completed. The town Capital Improvement Plan includes the Seaverns Bridge Road canoe launch with steps and bank stabilization. The town is waiting for NHDOT to comment on the Riverwalk redesign.

Next Meeting is **January 20, 2022 at Milford Police Station**

Submitted by Celeste Barr and Cory Ritz

