

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Facility, Milford, NH

March 16, 2023

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

Review of February Minutes- Minutes accepted.

New Business

Pine Valley tour- The tour was well attended and interesting. This is the first operating dam on the river. There is an existing dam downstream in Milford, but it doesn't operate. Was noted that there was a fish ladder, but it was a one way trip and appeared rather risky.

DES had been monitoring the Pine Valley Dam due to fluctuations in water levels probably caused by hydro peaking (storing up water in the pond and releasing it.) The new owners are planning to put in a new turbine but need to re-license first. Our interest is in the in-stream flow data well as watching for hydro peaking. Peter will keep us posted and the State will probably request a study as well. George questioned if water could be impounded under low flow conditions, but it cannot because one of the gauges cannot be closed all the way.

Outreach Events

Earthday- Most towns have Clean up Days scheduled. If your town is not listed here or you have additional information please email Kleta at kleta.dudley@gmail.com with the information. I will be making a chart with this information to be posted on the SoRLAC display board that will be on display at the Wilton Sustainability Fair.

Cleanup in Milford is April 22 .

Cleanup in Amherst is scheduled for May 6. Sponsored by Amherst Conservation Commission

New Ipswich currently has nothing listed on the town calendar.

Greenville is April 22, meet at town hall at 9:00 A.M.

Wilton is April 22.

Wilton Sustainability Fair- April 15th 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. at the High School. SoRLAC and SWA have tables that will be set up next to one another. Celeste brought the old information panels to give to Eric as he and George will be doing the set up and first shift at the fair. Kleta will make a chart of clean up events in corridor towns. There was discussion on how to update the pamphlets. Volunteers were assigned time slots.

Set up- George, Eric

First Shift 9:00-11:30 A.M. Peter, George and Eric, they probably will be there for the entire fair as well.

Second Shift 11:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Cory and Rob

Third Shift 2:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M. Kleta and Marshall

Canoe Trips-We made a schedule for canoe trips

June 3, Milford to Amherst, 9:00 A.M. Location to be determined but probably Kaley Park (problem with an island) to Souhegan High School.

July 8- Locations to be determined.

Aug. 5, Locations to be determined.

Aug. 28, Merrimack rapids, for the brave at heart.

Arcidi Property- Upgraded Structure in Flood Plain-There was some discussion on how long a “shed” had been on the Arcidi property. It was decided it had probably been there since 2021-22. There had been an old smaller shed in bad repair in a different location at one point. This shed is more or a party barn with a bathroom. It also has solar panels, a generator and very nice granite steps leading down to the river (which he had clear cut previously.) It is also in a flood plain. Celeste asked individuals on the Planning Board (PB) what they knew about this. Nothing ever came through the Planning Board for this type of structure. Apparently, he had gotten a permit to build a shed but no building inspector ever went out to check it out. Celeste says the PB was shocked and will be sending out a building inspector. No shoreland permit was applied for either. We decided we should file a complaint

for an unpermitted structure as this is not the first transgression that this individual has perpetrated.

Cory will submit a DES form and photos. He will also include some history/timeline of our grudges with how the property has been developed, mentioning the tree cutting, shoreline clearing and berm building.

Other Business-Governor Sununu is proposing to eliminate boards for professional natural scientist. This is about 30-32 boards. Cory as a representative will send out a letter to all LAC's. We need to object to this as we place trust in the data we receive from these professionals in their fields of expertise. Marshall suggested that we also send letters to our State representatives.

Corridor Management Plan, Home work for April -To locate your town's Master Plan status:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1szU9K9HZVB4zVYHDqIWbKUMORBibVbwQ/edit?usp=share_link&oid=116063050519300167776&rtpof=true&sd=true

Cory has visited New Ipswich's and Greenville's Conservation Commission (CC) meetings discussing our Watershed Management Plan. He will be bringing a short survey and handouts to future meetings in the rest of the corridor towns. Planning on doing a presentation in Amherst in June. George met with the Merrimack CC to notify them o openings on SoRLAC and LMRLAC and explained that each LAC is creating a n updated master

plan and will be coming to the CC with it when it is finished. The woman from NRPC that helped them will be helping us. Cory noted that we will need to guide the activity.

Tracie says the State is still processing our grant plan. No money is available yet. They haven't heard back from the EPA concerning testing. Discussion followed on where SWA's water monitoring will have samples tested. Possibility that some may go to Manchester WWTP. Merrimack had been planned to be closed for this summer for upgrades, but it appears that may be postponed for a while and they may be able to do some limited testing.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association- Eric and George need to get together to update events on the website. George has access but needs some technical assistance.

New Ipswich-Nothing to report.

Greenville-Application for the drug rehab center is ready. There will be a hearing on May 11th. The plan will need DES review.

Marshall also reported that there had been some clearing (with a buffer) on a lot across from the Green Bridge on Rt. 31 S. Previously it was thought that the property belonged to Eversource, and it was part of a scenic

easement but that is not the case. Marshall does not know the intentions of the new owner.

Temple-Nothing to report

Wilton- River's Edge - They have withdrawn their Cluster Development application. On 4/19 developer will be presenting a new standard subdivision plan with 8 lots. Peter was not sure if the promised flood plain Conservation Easement would still be part of the plan, but will go to the Planning Board meeting to find out. He will bring the new plans to the 4/20 SoRLAC meeting.

Parking Lot Facility on 31 S of 101 - A set of lots with Souhegan River frontage, Wilton tax map E-27-1-1 through E-27-1-4 are being used without approval of the Planning Board/Town. They are owned by Fairway Properties LLC. They are in the Industrial District but the recorded subdivision plan contains a series of requirements for any development or change of use (which has been ignored by new owner). A Site Plan review, at a minimum is required. The property has been clear cut and stumped within 150' of river (before covid.) This caught the attention of the Wilton Fire Chief and the DES air quality folks when they mixed tires in with burning stumps. The owner has been unwilling to meet any officials in person on site and has communicated by phone/email only. He is refusing to bring the property into compliance. There is now a mobile home type

structure on the site and numerous large commercial vehicles. Wilton's Town Administrator would like us to put whatever pressure we are able to assist in resolving this issue. Peter will be filing a complaint to DES on behalf of SoRLAC and ask the Wilton CC to do so as well. There has been no Planning Board (PB) or State approval of any of the activity.

Milford- Celeste reported that everyone in Milford is busy doing a Master Plan for whatever organization they belong to, and it would be nice if some of it could be streamlined. In the meantime, hopefully Cory will be able to do a presentation in April to Milford's CC.

In regards to the Heritage Trail that was discussed at a previous meeting, Celeste has been doing some research into history along the Souhegan trying to ascertain historical resources and information. She shared some interesting history with us about Joe English. She also has been in contact with the NH Archeologist Office. Their offices are currently not available to the public, but she will keep us posted.

Amherst- This is a link to Amherst Master Plan

(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/b4fpuk3lpmh60y0/Final%20120522%20Amherst%20Master%20Plan%20with%20appendix%20.pdf?dl=0>).

Rob will send us a copy of Indian trail map (done). See attachment for sign sent to sponsors for May 6th Clean up day. Rob has spoken to Cory and George and Eric (at

Wilton Sustainability Fair) about specific plans for the Amherst Canoe Ports and abutting riverbanks, as well.

Merrimack-Nothing to report

RMAC (River Management Advisory Council)-Cory will be attending his first meeting as a voting member in April.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, Sec. April 17, 2023

Next Meeting 7:00 P.M. April 20, 2023 at Milford Police Facility.