

# **Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee**

**Wilton Town Hall**

**September 21, 2023**

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Cam Lockwood (Temple), Celeste Barr (Milford), George May (Merrimack), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville) Eric Doberstein (Amherst), Peter Howd (Wilton), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.) Guest attending were Shane Kerrigan (owner of Fairview Property), Michael Atkins (lawyer for Shane Kerrigan), and Trevor Yandow (engineer for Meridian.)

We met at 6:30 P.M. at Police Station for a short walk through the Mill Building section along the river. Meeting followed shortly after 7:00 p.m at the Wilton Town Hall.

**Review of August Minutes-** Minutes accepted.

**Short review of individuals that need to renew their appointments.** To access a form which you will need to take to your town officials, go to NHDES, the first topic is water, click that and it will take you to a DES site that has a blue horizontal menu bar directly under the DES logo. The first entry on the bar is Home and Recreation. There is a pull down menu. Click Rivers and Lakes. The second topic is Management and Protection. In the beginning of the following paragraph is a highlighted phrase "Rivers Management and Protection". Click on that and on the right hand side of the screen is a list of RMPP Forms, the nominee form is the first on the list. The name of the form is the Local River Management Advisory Committee Nominee Form The number of the form is NHDES-

W-07-030. I was not able to locate it by just typing in the form name or number but those of you that are more computer literate will probably have better luck than me.

**Presentation by Fairview Property-** This is a commercially zoned property in Wilton 1 mile off of 101 on 31 S. Fairview Properties is a company that provides electrical repair services all over the east coast in disaster situations.

Just an FYI, Fimbal Door owns the adjacent lot.

This area of Wilton was designated as a commercial zone because it is a state maintained highway and the idea was to keep heavy traffic off the local roads. The property is a 4 lots but soon to be merged into 2 lots to comply with impervious surface rules. There is to be a 16,000 sq. ft. building (built by Harvey Construction) and parking. There are ongoing communications concerning an AOT permit . A site plan was filed on September 20. We will probably see it at October's meeting. The land was cleared of trees by the previous owner but current owner was responsible for stumping and grading the property. The site is fairly level and a riparian border was left along the river. Due to a fairly sharp drop near the river, the building site is not within the 100 year flood plain but a tiny portion of proposed construction falls within the buffer area.

Discussion followed. George wanted to know if they were considering Sno-Pro, and what were their plans for snow removal. He was also concerned for damage to Goldsmith Brook. Eric asked about the building and how much was office space and what the rest of the building was for. Answers were vague. Cory voiced concern that the storage ponds were very

close to the river. Peter questioned if the building could be rotated away from river. Shane explained that current siting is taking into account the possibility of an addition at a later date and ease of maintenance of ponds. They are also updating their original drainage design. Cory also questioned them as to public access to the river. There will be pedestrian access. George asked if signage could be installed and perhaps an easement might be in order for access for kayak and canoes.

In order to establish the most productive way to keep communication open Peter will make sure we have electronic access to any plans from the Wilton PB Site. Cory will be Trevor's contact. We stressed that our concerns are mainly for water quality and public access to the river.

We would like to have them do a presentation again when their plans are finalized. There was a short discussion on items we will push for, snow removal, riparian concerns, signage and public access for trails and boating. Because this property lies within an aquifer protection area, it will get a lot of scrutiny. There will be concern for what may be stored there.

## **August Minutes accepted**

### **Old Business**

**Souhegan River Corridor Plan-** Emma at NRPC reported a clerical error in paper work and it needs to go back to the state, so no progress. See amended agenda 9/21/23, around 4:00 P.M. Maybe we should invite them to our next meeting.

**Wilton Housing Project-**Plans will be submitted 9/22/23.

**Grant Application-** This is for drinking water sites. We do have at least one on the river. Discussion followed on whether we wanted to expand our testing sites to include these sites. Wilton already treats all of its drinking water. Greenville has a WWTP and all of New Ipswich is on private wells. Celeste noted Milford spends money to buy easements to protect their water supplies. We could identify possible contamination sites, but testing would have to take place immediately after a rain event. It's worth up to \$25-\$30K if it addresses climate change. Cory will forward link to Grant information to Peter who will take a look at it and report back for October's meeting. Deadline is November 1. Cory felt we already had the language in place from work on current grant application. NRPC would most likely have to supervise this grant as well. Celeste asked about obtaining copies of information on the 2006 grant for DNA testing. George thinks he might have that information and will search for it and share.

At this point there was a brief discussion about "don't cut trees..." about a Land Trust that had sold frontage to a piece of property and preserved the rest of the property. With the profit from the sale of the frontage they were able to put additional land into easement.

**DOT herbicide spraying-** Cory noted the State will be spraying for Japanese Knotwood, Bitter Sweet and Poison Ivy in areas near the Souhegan. As the date for comment had already passed, there was no point in commenting.

## **Local Updates**

**Souhegan Watershed Association-** SWA has closed up monitoring operations for the year. Eric has done a fabulous job. One take away from this project is his awareness of the lack of accessibility to the river and information regarding the wellbeing of the river. He feels access is key to public awareness. He felt we should have information to hand out to the public at event we attend or town events. (ex. Information on Sno-Pro, maps with canoe ports) Peter will push it in Wilton and was curious what towns people were from that attended the canoe events. It was expressed that we need to make an effort to draw in more members.

Discussion followed on who had the password for the SoRLAC Facebook Page and its content (science vs. pictures) George will track it down and share it with Cory and Celeste. Eric is administrator of SWA site.

**New Ipswich-** Nothing to report

**Temple-**Conservation Commission is passing out water test kits at this years Harvest Fair.

**Greenville-**Marshall contacted EPA to see if Pilgrim Foods had filed remediation information as required by administrative order. They filed a 90 page document, most of it being addendum. EPA would not release a copy of document as they may be working on further remedies. They do not want to prejudice further actions. Marshall plans to contact EPA prior to next meeting.

Concerning Mill 6, Drug Rehab project, the site plan hearing has been continued.

**Wilton-**There was a site walk at River's Edge September 15<sup>th</sup>. Three members of SoRLAC attended with the Wilton Conservation Commission. Only 8 lots will be developed. A great deal of construction will still need to be done. The developers agreed to an easement to the Conservation Commission for the flood plain area. The Planning Board is pushing for a parking spot by the bridge for public access. This will contribute to a corridor to High Mowing with only one plot blocking total access.

**Milford-**The easement proposal on the River Trail at the Boy's and Girl's Club has been retracted without prejudice. Celeste said we should invite Lincoln Daley to our next meeting for an update on dog park and the acquisition of the old Masonic Lodge parking lot for the town.

**Amherst-**Nothing to report.

**Merrimack-**Nothing to report

**RMAC-**They have been delayed going through their properties investigations. Cory will put a bug in their ear on more community meetings.

**Field Trip to Billy Ward Pond with President of the Billy Ward Pond Association-** new date to be determined

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, Sec. Sept 26, 2023

Next Meeting October 19, 2023 Milford Police Station

