

Souhegan Local Advisory Committee
Milford Police Department
March 21, 2024

In attendance were Rob Clemens (Amherst), Cam Lockwood (Temple), Marion Kastner (Amherst,) Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Peter Howd (Wilton), Rich Hart (Amherst), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), George May (Merrimack), Celeste Barr (Milford), Eric Doberstein (Merrimack), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.)

Guests were Jackie Hodgkins (Goffstown), Earle Blatchford, Senior Project Manager, Hayner/Swanson Inc. (Survey and site development and permitting for Hitchiner Property), and Anthony Rodrigues from Hitchiner, and finally Jerry Guthrie (Milford Vietnam Memorial Committee.)

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Rob Clemens chaired the meeting as Cory was away on a business trip.

Guest Speaker Jerry Guthrie gave a presentation on the proposed "War in Vietnam Memorial." This will be at the corner of Union Street and Elm Street as you enter Union Square. The WWII Memorial Park entrance is to the left of the Union Street Grill and the new memorial will be at

the back of that park and to the left of the Carey House Museum. The goal is to finish the park by next year. They need \$75,000.00. They got the go ahead to begin the project on a warrant article in 2019. Jerry has been working on this project for about 25 years. They are still collecting names of individuals from Milford who served in Vietnam or in the "Terrorist wars." Bricks are \$50.00 each and you can have them engraved. The VFW has helped with the land acquisition and the Town has donated lots of granite. Jerry had a blueprint of the planned memorial. The central brick plaza area will be 34' across, the broken (disconnected) wall is 18' long. When George questioned about the wall being broken, Jerry said it was to symbolize the division and conflict at home over the war. There will be plaques with timelines of events. The grade will slope 1% on the plaza, fill between bricks will be stone dust. The main plaza is 40' from the river. The entrance, where the Terrorist War memorial is planned, is about 10'-15' from the river. They are hoping to get a grant to help with this portion of the memorial, which is figured at \$87,000.

There were some trees that had to be removed. There is however a very nice landscaping plan in the design. There is a lot of symbolism in the design of the park.

We had no particular objections.

Old Business

Hitchiner- Earle Blatchford and Anthony Rodrigues as backup presented plans for an expansion at the Hitchiner Manufacturing Plant. A new 57,000 sq. ft. building is being planned to be built by Pro Con Construction. It is being built right next to an existing building (called the Administration building (18,000sq. ft.) but really used for manufacturing) which will be demolished after equipment there can be moved into the new building. Earle's company Hayner/Swanson, Inc is responsible for surveying and site development.

There will be a net increase in impervious surface, but it is mostly due to the new roof. Nine parking spaces have been eliminated. There will be 2 stormwater areas and an infiltration basin where water will be recharged. Drainage ties into existing stormwater system and flows east to a pond with a swale and then to the northeast corner of the site, then north and ends up in the River. He thought it was about a mile it travelled to the River. Run off from the roof should be cleaner than runoff from parking lot. No natural wet lands are involved. The swale does have man made wetlands. Nothing is in the

flood plain. Calculations were based on impervious surfaces.

Marion asked about spills within the building as trucks will be loading and unloading there. There is in house training for spills. She also asked about recycling rainwater. Apparently, no plans for that.

There is excess parking “on campus as a whole.” Hitchiner runs 3 shifts. First and Second shift overlap by 3.5 hours and even with 40 future additional staff they will still have plenty of parking spaces. They rent the old Suburban Propane lot for parking and have bought up 2 lots around their property so parking is not an issue.

Rob and Celeste asked about the need for discharge permits. Currently, not necessary as discharge goes to pond now and is monitored. Required portion will infiltrate at site. They are awaiting an AOT permit.

Peter’s only concern is that they only considered the 50 year stormwater plan. Discussion on asking the State to require a 100 year stormwater plan going forward. Rob will draft something for Cory to look at.

Fairway Properties-They are creating a temporary parking area further back on the property behind some trees which is actually the furthest point from the River. Next week they will begin to work on the real parking lot with liner, sediment, fill and timber. It will be in place during phase 2 then will be removed. It has been required that all storm water management work go in first. The building has been accepted by the Planning Board in Wilton and they have their Shoreland Permit and maybe septic (Peter wasn't sure). He reported that they are doing everything the town has asked and more than the Stater requires. Because of the size of the building there were 81 parking places calculated but there are only 17 employees. There may be further discussion on reducing size of parking lot. Due to it's perimeter, they will need to plant over 200 trees.

New Business

Jackie Hodgkins-Jackie is originally from Milford but currently lives and works in Goffstown which does have a miniscule area of land in our watershed. It was decided that since Goffstown does have a piece of land in our watershed that Jackie can forego being nominated by Goffstown Selectmen and we can nominate her. Peter

moves we submit a nomination. Cory probably needs to fill out form.

Fait's Property Management, Shoreland Permit, Island Street, Wilton NH-Not in any town boards yet, but they have been issued a Shoreland permit.

Special Hermetic Products Inc.-This company does gold and nickel plating. They are re-upping their permit for discharging pre treated waste water into the Souhegan. This is located on the road into Wilton from the intersection of the Irving Station. They are the first Mill in Wilton on that road. (the first mill on the road is in Milford). They discharge approximately 5 gallons/day for 4 days, total 20 gallons/week. The "nasty" stuff gets dried and shipped off to a hazardous waste company. They have a permit from WWTP on how much they can discharge and a limit on concentrations of material in waste. Cyanide is linked to gold plating. They are not changing any of their practices. Peter thought it would be interesting to ask DES if they have had any violations on record. Rob will draft something

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LMAC and RMAC Webinar-State has a huge database for water crossings. Rob reported the he and Cory have

been involved with them with the work they are doing on management plan. The webinar would help you understand the information the State has on your town's water crossings. This is March 26th at noon. See Cory's email.

Watershed Corridor Management Plan-Send any finished audits to Emma Rearick

emmar@nashuarpc.org or pass along to Peter.

Rob, Peter, and Cory of SoRLAC met with Emma and Ryan of NRPC last Friday (March 15.) They discussed flood plain distribution for the watershed area and erosion risk. A map was generated, but the map only defined risks to buildings. Open land and large stretches of the River were not considered. Peter noted that we needed to show both risk map and flood plain map. He said that the braided rivers in Wilton were not mapped. He thought there would have to be considerable explanation in the text. The Vermont Stream Geomorphic Assessment Protocols and handbooks are reference documents and field observation checklists for the accessing of erosion, but individuals need training. Rich asked if changes (like Oxbows) in the River are being considered. At present they are not. Peter will push for indication of old oxbows.

Outreach-The Souhegan Sustainability Fair is no more. Sandy, the individual who did the organizing of the event has moved on to other endeavors.

The Amherst Conservation Commission is having a private group meeting with the ACC trail and nature stewards on April 20th to review progress over the year, upcoming goals and provide an invasive species training to the members. Amherst will hold its annual Clean Up Day on the weekend of April 20 & 21, all residents are encouraged to participate along with our sponsors (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Amherst Junior Women's Club, DAR, Dovetail Dental, Determined Martial Arts, and Sunny Valley Farms) who will have groups out conducting clean up.

Eric attended a Webinar on Cyanobacteria yesterday (March 20.) Eric also mentioned there was a problem with the bacteria at Billy Ward Pond in MA, which is where one branch of the Souhegan begins. Eric was curious as to if the bacteria can live in moving water. Cyanobacteria blooms because we don't have ice overs, infiltrators and high O2 levels. DES is charting amounts and locations and notifying the public. Cyanobacteria is the quickest bacteria to respond after winter. It is very toxic to people and their pets, as it can cause

neurological damage. TO date there is no containment and no viable treatments. Eric should like to have some presentations on water safety, Rob suggested using the SWA's Facebook page, Jackie noted that her company could invite us in for a presentation since it is involved in sustainability. Eric is also doing 5 minute zoom presentations for the Merrimack Watershed Council.

Local Updates

SWA-Not too much on water testing. Merrimack hoping to have their new lab ready for testing in June and they will do testing for us if it is done. Manchester does 4 test. Milford no longer does testing for us as they are very short of help. George noted that if we can get into Nashua lab, they could do 10.

New Ipswich-Nothing to report

Greenville-Mill #6 continued again into April. They are working on off site parking.

Temple-Conservation Committee is working with Moosewood on a Natural Resources Inventory. There are also 2 proposed easements in progress.

Wilton-Nothing to report.

Milford-Cleanup day- April 13th, organized by a group of very active Milford volunteers. There will be prizes.

Amherst-Tree trimming first weekend in April, Vernal Pool workshop 2nd weekend at Buckmeadow (sold out.) See previous mention of clean up under "Outreach." George suggested ways to get younger adults interested in stormwater issues. He cited stenciling storm drain covers. Both Wilton and Amherst have worked with the schools to design and implement this.

Merrimack-Nelson reported that work was ongoing on the new trail. Concrete has been poured for the walls that will support the sidewalk. He hopes it will be finished by the end of June or July. We should schedule a ,meeting there.

RMAC-They work with the Boys and Girls' Clubs and hiking groups to organize their own cleanups.

We want t o plan a field trip or May's meeting.

Next Meeting-Milford Police Facility, 7:00 p.m.
April 18, 2024

Update to March's minutes from Celeste in email dated Thursday April 18th. She was not going to be able to attend meeting.

For the history piece of the Souhegan Corridor Mgmt Plan, I visited the NH Dept of Historical Resources to check on "pre-contact" (pre European) records of findings within the Souhegan River Watershed.

I will write a short piece for the management plan without maps of specific archaeology sites. This is for protection of the sites. I will send directly to Emma. I believe it is important to give recognition to the people who lived here earlier.