

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Facility

October 19, 2023

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

Guest- Emma Rearick and Tracie Sales (concerning Watershed Plan), Nicole Crawford, Milford Town Engineer (concerning Dog Park), and Marion Kastner (Guest from Amherst CC.)

Celeste Barr chaired the meeting as Cory was recovering from an accident but attended by Zoom.

Review of September's Minutes- Minutes accepted. Tracie reminded us of rules regarding voting in a hybrid meeting

Old Business

27 Island St. Wilton, Shoreland Permit- Town is requesting more information including "a set of plans with the dimensions and locations of ALL existing and proposed structures, impervious areas (as defined in RSA 483-B:4, VII-b,) areas to be impacted during construction and all other relevant features necessary to clearly define both existing conditions and the proposed project.." See attachment for full letter.

The ZBA denied request. This structure needs to be torn down. Reconstruction is not an option. It would have to be a new

build. State permitter got back to Cory, she hadn't realized how close this property was to the river. She expressed appreciation for our input. The case will probably be appealed to Superior Court

New Business

Milford Dog Park Update-Nicole Crawford, Milford Town Engineer updated us on the Dog Park plans. She had a preliminary map of the plans. Fieldstone will be doing a ground survey as well. A shoreland permit is being worked on. Currently she sees the bridge crossing that is necessary to access the site as the biggest obstacle. Not decided yet as to whether it will be for foot traffic only or allow vehicular passage.

There may be trees that will have to be removed. There was a discussion on plantings. We would prefer native riparian plants that would help negate/stabilize buffer between River and fence. The area is in a flood zone. We also stressed we don't want to see any more impervious surfaces. Presently a stone dust path is planned and there will be ditches around site to help with stormwater runoff.

Nicole was questioned about the waste. George is still adamant that this location is a poor choice for a dog park and is very concerned about disposal of waste. He was very clear that he felt there were several more suitable sites for a dog park. This is already a chronically impaired section of the river. He wants a maintenance schedule in place. She said that DPW will be picking up the waste same as they do at other parks in town. There were questions as to what measures would be taken to

keep dogs out of the water and who was going to enforce cleaning up after owner's dogs if they didn't do it themselves.

Rob will be emailing Nicole information on the Millyard Dog Park in Nashua. Celeste wanted signage and elements of public education addressed. Cory wanted to know if access to the water for recreational boaters had been considered, and insurance that steps were taken to address erosion. It was suggested that water testing be done at the site. Cory would like the Dog Park topic revisited next month.

The proposed park is located behind an abandoned building at #27 101-A which the town owns. It is still unclear if access will be just pedestrian or if vehicles will be allowed. It is hoped that there will be electricity for lights and water at the site.

Souhegan River Watershed Corridor Plan- Emma Rearick from NRPC came to introduce herself and confirm that we got approval for a 14K grant to update the Souhegan River Watershed Corridor Plan. Certain items need to be included due to RSAs. Cory asked about timelines. She is setting a goal of an initial draft for the plan being done by June 2024, and the plan completed by the end of 2024. She stressed outreach to the community. Tracie Sales stressed involvement of the committee with Emma. The topic should be reviewed every month. Cory will contribute the water quality data. An additional survey was discussed using a broader reach. We would like to review other management plan's surveys. Tracie suggested the DES site which has guide documents that might be useful. There are list of things in the statues that DES wants us to consider in the plan. Cory pointed out that even though

we didn't get money to do the DNA testing, we should plan to highlight areas we are concern about, it might be useful in future funding attempts.

Cory suggested a "kick off" meeting on a Friday. We would resurrect the whiteboard and dissect what the plan should include. Cory and Emma will coordinate a time and place. Cory questioned if there were any other river plans we could look at, ones that Tracie has worked on. She said they are all on-line. She mentioned the Lower Merrimack and Exeter. Peter stressed that the plan should be short enough that people would actually consider reading it, and Cory said we could use appendixes to speak to specifics.

Tracie said the goals and objectives in broader areas can be supportive of future grant applications. The plan should include long and short term goals of things we can actually do.

Emma was asked about suggestions on how to get the Watershed Plan incorporated into the towns' Master Plans.

Peter questioned how inclusive tributaries should be in the plan.

Grant Investigation-We aren't ready for it yet. From the agenda..."Peter did a close read on the source protection grant material. Conclusion - we should wait a year until we have the corridor plan in place. One of the categories for the source grants is watershed planning, in the fullest sense. We will benefit from using the corridor plan, the e.coli spike sampling from Wilton this summer (at times up to 5 per week) and the

additional community outreach we will be doing to motivate a holistic approach to include eDNA”

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association-Nothing going on, still working on website. Eric did a commendable job getting people interested in SWA this summer with the organization of canoe trips and his water monitoring. Eric is the administrator of the SWA Facebook page. George, Celeste and Peter have access to the SoRLAC Facebook page, but anyone that needs access to it can do so. See George for access.

New Ipswich- Nothing to report

Temple-Nothing to report

Greenville-There was a continuance for the #6 Mill Drug Rehabilitation Center. There will be a revised plan reviewed at the December 14 Planning Board meeting.

There is no update on the Pilgrim Food Compliance issue.

Marshall reported that 2 large Oak trees had fallen across the river in Wilton between the Route 31 Bridge near the Greenville-Wilton town line and Goldsmith Brook.

Wilton-River's Edge is close to getting application approval. They are days away from submitting their AOT application.

Milford- A proposal exists to offer an easement on Milford tax lot #21-22 owned by the Masonic Lodge on Mont Vernon St to the Town of Milford for use as a

public parking lot. Trees will have to be removed between Mont Vernon Street and the area to be used for parking. The area is currently semi-wooded and home to an Armed Forces Memorial and a segment of the Souhegan River Trail. This lot is not included in the Shoreland Exemption map even though all the surrounding plots are. Nicole reported that the town will request NHDES that this parcel be exempt from Shoreland Protection.

Parking issues near the old Cabinet site (that was a newspaper's location) across from fire station have been worked out.

Amherst-Planning Board is doing ordinance reviews for March's ballot. Flood plains and wetlands will be in focus, with intent to have less ambiguity in buffers. Rob will send Peter a copy.

Merrimack-Nelson had good news. November 3,2023 at Watson Park 10:00A.M. will be the ground breaking ceremony for the Souhegan River Trail. The plan was approved in 2016. The trail goes under Route 3 and across a former wetland. Celeste will post on Facebook.

Seaverns bridge is closed till Nov. 3

RMAC-no updates

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, Sec. Oct 23, 2023

Next Meeting November 16, 2023 Milford Police Station

