

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

**Amherst Country Club, Amherst NH**

**May 18, 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), Nelson Disco (Merrimack) and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.)

**Review of April Minutes-** Minutes accepted.

## **Old Business**

**June 10<sup>th</sup> Canoe Trip-** Bring garbage bags. There will be a river cleanup in progress.

**Grant Update-** At the annual meeting of NRPC, which Cory and Nelson attended, Emma told them the grant we have applied for should be coming in any day. She is 99% sure that we will get it. Emma is sending Cory a copy of the Lower Merrimack plan which she also helped put together. Cory wants the plan to be short, sweet but new.

## **New Business**

**Milford State Land Easement-** The RMAC's business is to assist the State with State owned properties and at the last meeting Cory was informed that the State DOT wants our opinion on its pump station on 101-A. This is located behind the Shaw's in Milford. The state owns the property (1.32 Acres)

and wants to give an easement to Pennichuck. The purpose of the pumping station is to redistribute water from the Merrimack up to Milford. We had no plans of the station or pipeline but agreed that Pennichuck would probably keep the site cleaner than it is now. RMAC wants to make sure this is done properly with BMP during construction to pump house and piping. We are on board with Pennichuck getting an easement. Cory will provide our comments to RMAC.

**Greenville's proposed renovation of existing Old Mill building into a rehabilitation facility-** This is the first site plan proposal for the site that has been accepted by the planning board as complete and ready for public hearing. This mill was in its most recent former use a storage facility for Kimbal Physics. It is currently being gutted. Our concerns were with the exterior of the site. The building looms over the river. The proposed rehab facility will have 38 beds. There are only 4-6 parking spaces. They say they will do off site parking across the street at the old Chamberlin Mills which now serves as a church. There is also an issue with Snow removal and storage.

Rob questioned whether a Shoreland Protection Permit would be required. None has been applied for. Peter noted that as it is a "change of use" it should of triggered a need for a permit.

The plans were difficult to read but it appears that they are planning on using a type of French drains to address the drainage issues as the culverts don't hook into anything. Some discussion on sizing and construction. Eric noted that there are calculation that can be determined by plugging in the data.

Peter questioned if there were any zoning regulations concerning the permeability of the surfaces. There are not.

Discussion followed on Storm water management. Plans were not clear. Apparently there is some sort of structure that water will flow into and collect particulates before dumping into river and a lot of hope that water will percolate into soil.

The party requesting permitting will notify surrounding towns as they are presenting this rehabilitation center as a facility for regional use.

Cory said he was not adverse to improvements to the site, but at one point they had suggested double parking to accommodate the 30-40 people that would be on site. That was deemed inappropriate. They also had to install a propane tank in, which reduced their pervious surface.

So far no discussion on snow removal. There are no regulations in Greenville governing this, but the structure itself is at lower than Main St. point so a lot of melted runoff flows through the site.

Peter will be writing a first draft letter (to be passed along to Cory) directing comments to Greenville's Planning Board. There is a public hearing on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **Amherst, Milford, Merrimack-Eversource Structure**

**Replacement-**This was deemed a fairly routine project with Eversource. Some soil will be moved around, some trees will be cut but we felt "they have a good history of not going rogue." They will be crossing the river in Milford above Kaley Park.

**Party June 3, George's house, Naticook Rd. Merrimack 2:00**

## **Local Updates**

**Souhegan Watershed Association-** There is a big problem with getting the water samples tested this summer. Due to shutdowns and staff shortages Eric is having difficulty assuring that samples are tested. Susan Snider, the lab person at Milford, is retiring and it is uncertain that her replacement could handle the extra work at this time. Milford only handled about 6-10 samples. Nashua is short staffed and Merrimack is re-vamping their facility and will be working out of a trailer and cannot take on extra work. Eric has contacted Manchester and has not received a call back. Discussion followed on cost of having private labs (i.e. someone like ChemServe in Milford) do the testing. Seems like it's about \$30-\$60/test.

It was suggested contacting the Merrimack River Council, perhaps they can help with cost. Cory urged Eric to stress the 20 year history of the program and that the current situation with testing is probably temporary. In the meantime, the number of sites will probably be reduced to 10. Short discussion followed on which sites would continue to be tested. Probably the ones that support swimming, canoeing or have presented problems with E.coli in the past.

**New Ipswich-**Cory received notification from Tracie Sales about an application for a Shoreland Permit. Lot #25 on Turnpike Rd. No other information was available.

**Greenville-**Nothing to report

**Temple-**Nothing to report

**Wilton-** River's Edge-Lot numbers are down to 8 lots with only one lot along the river's edge. A conservation easement was granted to the Planning Board (Wed. May 17<sup>th</sup>) for the floodplain area. There is some storm water management going on. We congratulated Peter on the good work of the Wilton Planning Board in holding the developer's feet to fire.

Fairway Properties LLC-This was concern over Utility worker's parking along Rt. 31. When contacted the Town Administrator informed Peter that all the trucks were going South for hurricane season.

**Milford-** The dog park is doing preliminary design work and some test pits for drainage are being done. Despite its location, it did not flood in the heavy rains we received a few weeks ago.

The hearing for an easement for a bus road on a portion of the River Trail has been postponed till June. Celeste thinks the plans are on hold as they didn't meet the buffer requirements . The State did not give the permission necessary to move forward.

**Amherst-** Nothing to report

**Merrimack-**After 7 long years the Souhegan River Trail has approval to move forward with plans for completion. They have a contract and a contractor to do the work. It

will not begin till Fall. The trail begins at Watson Park, goes under Route 3, across former wetlands and connects to a trail that goes to Wildcat Falls. On the way the trail passes a Bridge that needs to be replaced (on the 10 year Plan.)

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, Sec.May19, 2023

Next Meeting 6:00 P.M. June 15, 2023 Walk to Wildcat Falls. Park on Currier Rd and walk in. Meeting to move to Merrimack Town Hall afterwards.