

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes April 23, 2003

SoRLAC met at the Merrimack Town Hall at 7 PM on April 23, 2003.

In attendance were:

Andy Powell, Merrimack
Bill Parker, Milford
Spencer Brookes, Wilton
Les Tallarico, Wilton
Angie Rapp, NRPC
Steve Couture, NH Rivers Coordinator, NH DES
Will Fenno and Jay Kiley, Friends of Temple Mountain
George May, Merrimack
Rich Hart, Amherst
Celeste Barr, Milford

The meeting minutes from March were approved.

UPDATES:

- The Russell Hill Bridge from Route 101 to Russell Hill Road in Wilton, which crosses Blood Brook, a tributary of the Souhegan, is being replaced but not removed. The replacement bridge will be a 2 lane bridge 400' downstream of the old bridge. This will provide a safer line of sight for drivers. The construction of the abutments will be overseen by NH Fish & Wildlife to ensure trout habitat will be maintained and not destroyed by the project.
- Intervale Road, Wilton Shoreline violation. New house construction by Bragdon on a recently subdivided lot on Intervale Road is grading straight to the river. There are no silt fences, water is being pumped out of a hole directly into the river. This was picked up by George May who reported it to DES. NH DES and the Wetlands board developed a list of compliance activities. George paddled by April 19, and reports it looks much better. The violator has 30 days to submit photographs of corrections to DES. Steve will try to obtain and bring these to the May 28 SoRLAC meeting.
- Instream Flow Rules— The state of NH has been working on instream flow rules since 1989. The Souhegan was selected as a pilot study river. The rules are due to be approved in May 2003. The funding also appears to be imminent. This means the pilot study may start this summer on the Souhegan. There will be two main committees which will determine uses of the water and then allocating them. A base flow will be set below which withdrawals cannot occur. The SoRLAC will be part of the official commenters for the Instream Flow Rules. They will also be two SLAC members allowed on the Water Management Planning Advisory Committee.
- SB 87 Biosolids and Septage Application rules. There is a 125' setback from rivers for this kind of material application. For designated rivers, the setback is 250'. There is effort to reduce that to 125' but it was defeated in the senate committee.
- Dredge & Fill---Proposed Golf Course, Elm Street, Milford. There is a site walk Friday April 25. The SoRLAC has submitted several comments on the proposed streambank stabilization proposal (they do not approve of the proposal). It is anticipated that the proposal will be redesigned and resubmitted.

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- The 319 Watershed Assistance Grant for compiling a Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan was approved by NH DES. The contract and funding for \$28000 should be received by NRPC by the last week in April. The work can begin in June.
- SoRLACs have their own webpage on the www.nashuarpc.org environmental page. Minutes, agendas, and projects can be posted there. The NRPC website contains calendar items, census data and maps.
- NRPC is sponsoring **Environmental Planning Workshops. Shoreland Protection** is Monday, April 28th 6-8 PM at the NRPC office. RSVP. **Wetlands** May 22nd, 6-8 PM. **Green Buildings and Schools**, June 30th 6-8 PM. Check NRPC website for more information. www.nashuarpc.org/calendar
- There is news that a Regional Open Space Team (ROAST) has been meeting to propose a land trust/corridor in the region. Participants have come from Milford, Wilton, Hollis, Lyndeborough, and Brookline. Spencer and Angie have attended. There was a Souhegan Valley Land Trust established as a nonprofit with 501c3 status by Bill Ferguson. Keep communication open with them. There is also a new land trust started in Amherst to work with the Conservation Commission on land acquisition, easements and resale, Rich reports.
- Friends of Temple Mountain will give a presentation at our next meeting on their conservation efforts.
- It was suggested that in our Management Plan "To Do" list we include the creation of a brochure for each town in the watershed, for landowners, educating them on riparian land owner BMPs, wetlands, aquifer, wellhead and shoreland protection regulations as Rich is doing for the Amherst Conservation Commission. He will also have it on a website. The DES has a poster we should obtain on this. Could Steve locate it and send it to Celeste? Wilton is hoping to do a mailing to all riparian land owners. This is a good watershed education grant proposal.
- SoRLAC would also like to coordinate with the Milford and Wilton Main Street committees. It was suggested that we start with an exhibit at the Arts and Film Fest in Wilton and the Pumpkin Fest in Milford. Rich suggested a Riverfest at a riverfront location some day for improving public awareness and education. George will submit a written piece to the Wilton Main Street newsletter.

TOWN UPDATES:

- Merrimack DES Violation. Owner filled erosion area on riverbank over the last year. DES and MCC are overseeing the correction. Owner has now started (one year later) to correct what was done.

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- Milford---Proposed Golf Course is still in preliminary review by the Planning Board. There is to be a pedestrian bridge built from Keyes Field in Milford to the American Stage Festival (to be Souhegan Boy's and Girl's Club) this fall. It is federally funded. George suggested bridge design include considerations of keeping the river navigable.
- New shoreline violation—Souhegan Street, Milford. Private street sweeping company is dumping sand on river edge in Leighton White Property. George will inspect.
- Wilton-- J & D Auto garage has wetlands violations and culverts to river. Mitigation area was destroyed.
- Route 31 Sandpit by King Brook Road – AT&T is installing a mono-pine antenna below the ridge line. They have to put in power lines on the road which is a scenic highway along the Souhegan. Spencer will keep his eye on this project.
- Shell Station by Monadnock Spring is in the WILTON aquifer district. Traffic study is in progress.
- Granite State- installing a 2 lane bridge over their existing bridge over Stony Brook. Much siltation there.
- Railroad ties are being replaced and left along the RR lines on the Bennington line. There is concern about creosote. Spencer will talk to Peter Leishman and Steward Draper about possibly removing them after he receives some info from Steve or DES Waste Management on effects of creosote.
- Souhegan Watershed Association Annual Meeting is May 5 at the Wadleigh Library Keyes Room, Milford at 7 PM
- 2002 SWA water quality monitoring data is available and being distributed to libraries and conservation commissions in the area. Volunteers are needed this year. Biomonitoring (using kicknet samples for invertebrates) will be added this year.
- Adopt-A-Salmon program needs release volunteers to assist schools release the salmon fry they have grown this year. May 9 is the first training and release. George will email more info out on this.

Next Meeting: May 28th 7pm at Amoskeag Fishways, Manchester. Call Angie at NRPC if you want to carpool from the Burger King, Merrimack off of the FE Everett Turnpike.

Minutes by Celeste Barr