

**SOUHEGAN RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2003**

The meeting was held at the New Ipswich Town Hall.

In attendance:

George May, Merrimack
Nelson Disco, Merrimack
Angie Rapp, NRPC
Les Tallarico, Wilton
Spencer Brookes, Wilton
Celeste Philbrick Barr, Milford
Marshall Buttrick, Greenville
Helen Dalbeck, Wilton
Rich Hart, Amherst

The minutes of the November meeting were approved with modifications (see attached).

Old Business

- Angie reported on the SB 87 concerning sludge and short paper fiber land application. The study committee proposed keeping the 250' riparian setback for the application of these materials with a minimum of 125' if a site specific study shows it can be reduced. A vote will be taken on this proposal during the first week of January.
- Instream Flow Committee Nominations: Angie reported that the Rivers Management Advisory Committee met on December 18th and made the following recommendations for nomination of SoRLAC members to the Instream Flow Committee:

Spencer Brookes – representing the SoRLAC
Diane Fitzpatrick – representing the SoRLAC
George May – representing recreational interests
Nelson Disco – as a public official
Gordon Leedy – as a public official
Angie Rapp/NRPC – as a Conservation Interest

The next step is for these members to be approved by Governor and Council at their meeting on January 7th. Updates will be presented at the January meeting.

Angie also announced that Andrew Singelakis is leaving NRPC for a job in Tucson, AZ. She will be representing NRPC on the Instream Flow Committee, rather than Andrew Singelakis.

- Barrett Golf Course, Milford: The Milford Planning Board tabled discussion of this project until January. The Milford Conservation Commission submitted comments. SoRLAC comments can wait.

- Falcon Ridge Subdivision/The Frog Pond, Milford: The Nashua Regional Planning Commission submitted comments to the Milford Planning Board on this project. A site-specific permit will be required at which time SoRLAC will review and comment. Drainage from the site seems to be the largest issue.
- Shell Gas Station Proposal, Wilton: The Town of Wilton is going to introduce a zoning amendment which, if passed, would prohibit underground storage tanks in the aquifer protection district. The Shell station proposal is thus likely to be withdrawn.

Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan

- Angie will be submitting the workplan to DES.
- For the January meeting, SoRLAC members should come with ideas for who, what, and where to hold the State-of-the-Watershed meeting. One idea is to do it in Wilton during the Arts and Film Festival where many people gather outside near the river. Members should also gather trail maps, natural resource assessments, resource threat information, and Soil Conservation Service data for the River Resource assessment part of the management plan. Bring to next meeting.

Bridge replacement at Water Loom Pond – New Ipswich

- Wetlands Board received our comments and will add to file. As of 12/12, the Wetlands Board had not begun the review of this project. They were scheduled for a site walk.

New Business

- Peterborough Oil Gas Station proposal, New Ipswich:
The committee looked at site plans for the project, but no representative from New Ipswich was present for background on the plan. Concerns to be expressed in a letter to the Wetlands Board include:
 1. What is the treatment of onsite stormwater with such thorough paving of the site?
 2. Plan should include underground alarm system for storage tanks, dual wall tanks, and an emergency response plan
 3. Plan needs to employ best management practices for treatment and discharge and recharge of groundwater.
 4. What is the proximity of the car wash to the river? Where does the effluent from the car wash go? Phosphorus is a concern in the Souhegan River.
 5. Is there a reclamation plan for the site?
 6. Town should require an engineering review of the plan
 7. 250' shoreland protection zone should be delineated on plans and the nitrate area recognized
 8. 100 and 500-year floodplains should be delineated on plans
- River Road Subdivision, New Ipswich:
A 32-lot residential subdivision is proposed for River Road in New Ipswich. A site-specific application and wetlands permit will be required. The area in the plan is a good recharge area for the river with extensive wetlands. It is also a sensitive area with the merger of the

West Branch and the Souhegan River adjacent to the site. SoRLAC would like a site walk of the area when there is no snow. The concerns of our group are:

- Runoff from the site doubles during a 10-year storm with brief flooding occurring. This needs to be reduced.
- Part of the site has steep topography draining into the lower wetland portion of the site. There will be extensive disturbance of an area that normally absorbs large amount of water.
- When the only access to lots are through wetlands, SoRLAC feels the lots should not be accessed and concurs with the Conservation Commission recommendation for cluster development on this site. Therefore, we recommend that Class 6 Whirlpool Road be upgraded in order to run Fox Run Road out to Whirlpool Road through site 3, rather than straight through a wetland.

Local Updates

- Souhegan Watershed Association meetings are now quarterly, the next being on January 5 from 7-9 pm at the Wadleigh Library in Milford. A dam removal expert will be speaking.
- Amherst: proposed warrant article for \$5.5 Million for the Conservation Commission to buy conservation land. 15% of the total will be earmarked for playing fields and recreation. An Open Space committee will be formed to determine how land will be purchased if this passes. They will compile a list of priority pieces of land and negotiate purchases. Two prime properties are along the Souhegan River.
- Spencer proposed applying for a DES Small Education or Outreach grant to fund the compilation and distribution of information handouts for riparian landowners. Perhaps a display board could also be funded for use at events (such as State of the Watershed meeting).

The next meeting will be held on January 15th at the Wilton Town Hall at 7 pm.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!