

**SOUHEGAN RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2003**

The meeting was held at the Merrimack Town Hall in the Finance Room.

In attendance:

George May, Merrimack
Steve Couture, NH Rivers Coordinator
Angie Rapp, NRPC
Spencer Brooks, Wilton
Les Tallarico, Wilton
Andy Powell, Merrimack
Diane Fitzpatrick, Milford
Celeste Philbrick Barr, Milford
Helen Dalbeck, Wilton
Marshall Buttrick, Greenville
Doug Waitt, New Ipswich
Kleta Dudley, New Ipswich
Charles McGettigan, Wilton Municipal Water Supply
Carl Paulsen, NH Rivers Council
Michael Giamo, NH Business & Industry Association

Old Business:

The minutes of the September meeting were approved with a correction in the spelling of Aubrey Barrett's name.

Instream Flow Rules:

Steve Couture gave an overview of WMPAAC makeup and desired committee composition. Nominations go to Steve. The deadline is November 30. The Technical Review committee requests resumes for nominations to that committee.

SB 87 Committee:

There are no recommendations yet on alternative setbacks from rivers from the Biosolids Study Committee.

Scenic Route 31 in Wilton and power lines to cell tower:

Spencer and George will approach the Wilton selectmen to ask if the Attorney General can clarify the Route 31 Scenic Road designation and its specifications vis a vis the power line installation for the new AT&T Cell Tower. Other suggestions: George could call PSNH to inquire (implying it would be bad press for PSNH to violate a scenic road designation) and have a state rep (Tim Allen) call NH DOT.

Milford Golf Course:

A response from Aubrey Barrett, owner of land on Elm Street Milford that has a proposal for a golf course before the planning board. He could entertain selling development rights. If SoRLAC is interested, they should get the assessed value of the property from the town assessor. However, much has already been spent on the plan for a golf course and that lost value would likely be added to the sales price. We discussed prioritizing land for protection. Barrett will be going to the Milford Planning Board in November. It was suggested that SoRLAC recommend that the 25' setback/buffer zone be vegetated with native plantings (list available from NRCS). Also proposed is that the sand trap design be done as to prevent excavation by flood waters. Tucker Brook is on the property and its buffer zone can be protected too. SoRLAC will respond when the site specific application comes to us.

Monadnock Spring Water and Gas Station on NH Route 101 in Wilton:

Monadnock Springs Water Company contacted George re: their concerns about the proposed Shell gasoline station on Route 101 in Wilton near them. It was suggested that the SoRLAC via George request from Monadnock:

1. That they stop parking trucks on the river's edge
2. That they plant native vegetation along the river edge
3. That they improve their swale
4. That they clean up the field on the River side of their property

George will meet with Monadnock Water in the near future.

Mr. Gray's property, Merrimack:

Requirement specified by NH DES not complete. The Conservation Commission has notified DES of this.

Mr. Edmunds property:

DES needs to reinspect.

New Business:

Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan:

Postponed to November meeting. Members were asked to review the Proposed Work Plan and begin brainstorming potential tasks under each item of the Work Plan.

Updates from Towns:

Merrimack - DES and Town of Merrimack request support letters from SLAC to support grant application for funding a feasibility study for the removal of the dam in Merrimack.

Water Quality Studies using Macroinvertebrates: The indices were completed by NHDES for the data collected by the Souhegan Watershed Assoc. Two stations were assessed: the Rt 31 bridge crossing and Indian Ledges in Merrimack. The indices were good for both sites.

Wilton - Helen requested a letter to the Wilton Board of Selectmen requesting that native plantings be done along the small buffer zone around the new police station on the river. Spencer was going to check the site plan to see if any plantings had been specified but not completed.

New Ipswich - George will contact Warwick Mills about whether they have instituted any preventative measures to avert future spills into the river. The next meeting will be held on November 20th at the Greenville Town Hall in the old Courtroom at 7 pm. **The meeting will focus on the Souhegan River Watershed management plan first.** The SoRLAC would like to hold a “State of the Watershed” meeting with all committed partners in the municipalities participating.

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