

Minutes for Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee July 29, 2004

Site Walks:

A number of members were present at 6:35 to 7:00 PM at the Boys & Girls Club site to review plans for the building expansion and location of the foot bridge across the Souhegan River. Action on the topic was taken later at the official meeting.

Meeting:

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Diane Fitzpatrick at the Milford Town Hall, with the following present: Andy Powell, Richard Hart, Leslie Tallarico, Doug Waitt, Marshall Buttrick, Helen Dalbeck, Nelson Disco and Spencer Brookes. Others present included: Steve Couture – NH Rivers Coordinator, Matthew Peterson – Keach-Nordstrom Assoc., Sally Nutt-Morger, Randal Morger, Susan Paquin – Abutters to Amherst Thornton Ferry site.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Approved by all present.

Amherst - Thornton Ferry:

Matthew Peterson of Keach-Nordstrom Associates presented the project. The LAC focused on the river bank and noted the site now will have 5 instead of 7 building lots. The LAC voted unanimously to send a letter to Charles Tiedemann, Town of Amherst, 2 Main Street, P.O. Box 960, Amherst, NH 03031, indicating that the Souhegan LAC recommends that a public access easement or riparian way be established along the river frontage. The at-least-fifteen-foot right of way would be located at the top of the river bank and included in the easement would be language allowing for trail markers. Said right of way could be available to fishermen walking the shoreline and people stopping in boats. The motion was favorably approved by all members present. The abutters arrived later in the meeting missing Matt's presentation. The committee reviewed the issue and listened to the abutters and all agreed with the actions taken.

Milford, Boys & Girls Club:

A general review of storm water management should be done with special concerns about treatment of roof drains water. Careful consideration should be given that parking lot run-off, roof drains discharge, or new bridge construction does not result in any increase in direct flow of storm water to the river. All three on-shore water treatment efforts should be handled separately and be part of the club's site plan. Isolating the parking lot run-off will allow for easier clean-up should a spill occur. Ground absorption of water should be encouraged.

Amherst, Boston Post Road Stair Project

A replacement of stairway access to the river by the Amherst Conservation Commission was discussed. A motion was made and approved by all in attendance: A river bank planting to re-vegetate the area should be considered using the NHDES Riparian Planting list. To reduce potential bank erosion along the stairs, a fence or planting at the top of bank was a suggestion approved by the committee in order to encourage people to use the stairs.

Merrimack, Wetland Permit

Because of the dynamics of the river at this site, any efforts done on one side of the river could result in more hydro action causing transitions on either side of the river. The LAC voted to recommend that a letter be sent to NHDES indicating that the landowner should seek professional advice on what corrective measures should be done and should refrain from any actions in the riverbank area unless under the direction of a specialist. Refraining from mowing may be considered. Any mowing should be done as specified in accordance with the NH Shoreland Protection Act. Selection of plants above the river bank should be from the NH DES Planting list with proper advice on grasses, bushes and trees. Approved by all present.

Instream Flow Committees Review:

A meeting at NHDES in Concord of the Technical Review Committee will be held tomorrow on the initial technical procedural and assessment methodologies report. Members may wish to review reports on the web.

<http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/instream/pdf/UNHReportJuly2004.pdf>.

Wilton / Greenville , Scenic Highway, RT 31S:

Spencer & Les reported that Harold Beaubien of PSNH, 603-882-5894 Ext 5200, indicated that PSNH will be managing the construction of the lines for the AT&T cell tower project. At this point all utility lines will be underground and in the state's right of way. No poles will be used.

Souhegan Management Plan: Topic tabled

Signs:

In the near future towns may order Designated River signs. Steve Couture will be sending an e-mail with forms for this purpose.

Next Meeting:

Wilton Town Hall, August 19, 2004, 7PM

Adjourned 8:45PM

Submitted by Spencer Brookes, 603.654.6771