

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUHEGAN RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Meeting May 12, 2004

Meeting began at 7 pm at the Wilton Town Hall, Wilton, NH.

In attendance were:

Kleta Dudley, New Ipswich
Helen Dalbeck, Wilton
Celeste Philbrick Barr, Milford
Diane Fitzpatrick, Milford
Spencer Brookes, Wilton
Angie Rapp, NRPC
Les Tallarico, Wilton
George May, Merrimack
Marshall Buttrick, Greenville
Nelson Disco, Merrimack

The minutes of the April meeting were approved and accepted.

Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan

Souhegan River Expo: State of the Watershed Meeting – Wednesday, May 16th 6-9 p.m.

Committee reviewed list of presenters and took note of who they still needed to contact and confirm. Diane said the front and elevator doors of the Milford Town Hall would be open at 5 pm for people to come early and set up. Kleta and Angie will be there by 5:15 to oversee setup. All the tables of the Town Hall will be put in the auditorium to accommodate displays. All video and PowerPoint presentations will be supplied by the presenters. Les will pick up 10 dozen bottles of Monadnock Spring Water that day. George will contact the Amherst Kayak store to ask post a sign, invite them and ask if they would like to donate a door prize. Wilma will be asked by George or Spencer? To donate a book as a door prize. Helen will donate the roll of tickets. George will give a brief welcome at 7 or 7:30 pm to attendees, state the purpose of the expo and highlight important features of the expo that people should take note of. We could pull the door prize at that time. Or do it at 8:30 nearer the closing. Angie passed out posters for all of us to hang at our libraries and town halls in our respective towns plus perhaps major stores, offices, high schools and restaurants. She will email the sign to the committee members so we can electronically send the notice to our own mailing lists.

Grant Application Update—Spencer reported that our application for watershed education funding is 80-90% of the way through the system. It is a 2-year grant so will be open until Dec. 2005 and is for \$2000.

Angie has sent out a “Watershed Audit” to all the planning boards/town planners in the Souhegan Corridor. She is still waiting for return of some of

these audits. This is part of the town's "in-kind contribution toward the Souhegan River Management Plan Grant.

UPDATES:

Instream Flow Committee—

The Watershed Management Committee has met twice thus far. The Technical Committee has met and recommended the hiring of UNH and Normandeau Associates to undertake the instream flow modeling.

Barrett Parcel, Golf Course Milford - The Milford Planning Board has approved the construction of a golf course "Old Farm Golf Links" pursuant to obtaining all state and federal permits for the project, recalculation of wetland impacts, determination of appropriate means of irrigation and installation of monitoring wells, and following BMPS on Golf Course. (See attached conditions). Our committee anticipates reviewing this permit when we receive notification of a site-specific application or application for a wetlands permit.

Merrimack Village Dam—Nelson informed us of funding being provided by NOAA, Pennichuck Waterworks and the American Rivers Association for the evaluation of sediments behind the Merrimack Village Dam. This is one piece of the evaluation that needs to be completed prior to the removal of a dam. Nelson will look into who is researching the other requirements such as historical and cultural significance of the dam. Pennichuck waterworks is responsible for these tasks as they are they owner and applicant for dam removal. Helen will check with Ken Sprankle regarding evidence of fish migration past Wildcat Falls.

Town Updates:

Souhegan Watershed Association- Salmon releases with the "Adopt-A-Salmon" school programs are occurring. Water Quality Monitoring is being set up for this summer. On May 22, there will be a picnic for monitors at Keyes Field in order to review assignments.

Souhegan Valley Land Trust—is up and running with 13 plus members, a post office box (PO Box 417, Milford), and money in the bank. They have a member who is also a member of the Monadnock Land Trust. They will be updating their bylaws and reestablishing their goals in the near future.

Amherst—Abutters of the proposed housing development on Thornton Ferry II (brought to our attention by the Morgers at the April meeting) are petitioning FEMA to reexamine the floodplain classification of the area. There are some decisions to be determined by the town of Amherst and changing zoning as to the number of houses allowed on the property.

Merrimack- is the recipient of 96 acres of land with frontage along the Souhegan River by donor Mr. Ireland. This is a significant and lovely piece of land given to the Conservation Commission with established trails and easements on it.

Milford—The Town (DPW) is entering Phase II of their Stormwater Management Program which entails undertaking public education. They will have displays at the River Expo. They plan to revive the storm drain stenciling program. George has the stencils and has made contact with some boy scout groups. Some Milford Girl Scouts have expressed interest and Celeste referred them to Tom Neforas for details and schedule. The town is also interested in posting “NH Designated River” signs at river crossings when the signs become available.

Wilton—Spencer reports Conservation Commission has a site walk on the river Friday May 14 to examine a siltation problem downstream of the grassy fishing bridge south of the Rte 101 bridge past the transfer station in Wilton. Les Tallarico wrote a letter to all relevant elected officials in the state regarding the AT&T cell tower on Route 31. He stated that if they allow the erection of telephone poles along this designated Scenic Road, he will retract his land from the scenic easement. Erection of telephone poles for cables that could be buried underground does not constitute a safety issue as stated in the Scenic road easement. George will reissue a letter from SorLAC restating our position on this as well. He will send it to all the same recipients and send a copy of his letter and Les’ to AT&T.

New Ipswich—Pitcherville Rock Crusher Co. wants to buy land near the confluence of the Souhegan and the South Branch. It may not be in the corridor. Their blasting and gravel operation is a nonconforming use of the property, thus they are seeking permission before buying.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 17th at 7 pm at the Greenville Town Hall.