

Minutes of the
Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee
October 21, 2004

In attendance were George May, Spencer Brookes, Les Tallarico, Doug Waitt, Kleta Dudley, Rich Hart and Andy Powell.

Meeting began at 7 P.M. at the New Ipswich Town Offices

Minutes of Sept. meeting approved with Doug noting that he was in attendance at Sept. meeting even though his name did not appear on the list of attendants

Updates

Instream Flow Committee-Meeting Oct. 22, 1:00 Milford Town Hall There will be a presentation by Normandeau Associates. Representative from Tech committee will be there. Meeting is open to the public.

Scenic Easement -(cell tower) The tower is up. Wilton Planning Board is trying to determine how power might be brought in to power cell tower. Landowner, Chuck Crawford doesn't want to cut trees. PSNH wants to install 2 poles. The possibility of an underground cable was discussed by SoRLAC. A Wetlands Permit would be needed, as it would have to run under Goldsmith Brook. The question of whether it is definitely a "scenic easement" was discussed with Les reminding the group that he had a letter from Carol Murray at the DOT in Concord saying she'll do what she can to keep it as a scenic easement.

George **Error! Bookmark not defined.** needs to send a copy of a letter to Wilton Planning Board expressing SoRLAC view on the importance of maintaining the "scenic easement".

Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan-We were wondering if the presentation schedule had been set?

Grant Application-George sent in material. No money has been received. No bank account has been opened.

Error! Bookmark not defined. Spencer will call Julian Jones at DES.

Old Business

Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club Application-There is an application to create a stormwater drain direct to the river. This was not on their original application but the water has to go someplace and this may be necessary. George will check with Diane and probably we will back up what the Milford CC would recommend. It was agreed that we would prefer not to have a drain direct

to the river. There was discussion about how there was so much water on that property and some was exacerbated by the creation of the lumber yard there and filling of a small wetland.

Response to ATF Wetlands Permit Application to place riprap along riverbank to stabilize erosion-This is in reference to a site in Merrimack owned by a Mr. McCabe, who by the way now owns the lot on the other side of the river as well. He placed riprap in the attempt to save a sandy area but has been told by the state that it must be removed, at least as much of it as can be removed without causing major disruption into river. Due to high water, the site walk was postponed. George will notify us when it is re-scheduled. Presently, McCabe has been asked to remove the riprap, cut back slope and replant for bank stabilization but not until low water, sometime next summer.

And by the way....further down stream at the formerly Shwed property (now owned by McCabe), there is a lot of fill that has been dumped some time ago in an attempt to prevent erosion. We should take a look at this site.

Development Review Checklist – George brought a copy from the Merrimack Local River Assoc. At a later time in the evening, Spencer brought up the problem of large deserted and abandoned “big box” stores. It was suggested that considerations for these properties and their futures might also be addressed by the Development Review Checklist.

Short discussion about Granite State and it's ongoing operation at Stoney Brook and the fact that Nashua River Watershed Association is doing a presentation on Rock Crushing in December.

Elections

It is decided that nominations and election of individuals not present is subject to their approval.

It is voted to keep the Sec/Trea. as one position. Celeste Barr was elected by unanimous vote.

Richard Hart was elected as Vice Chairman. He reluctantly agreed to serve. George May was elected as Chairman. One dissenting vote, his own.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association- none

Souhegan Valley Land Trust- Working on by laws, mission statements, goals. Hope to be fully operational in 5 yrs. Currently have economic and policy boards.

Composed of all Conservation Commission people. Working out issues for 2 groups. (Regional Open Space and Land Trust)

George May was contacted by Souhegan Watershed Association. Someone had contacted them with a piece of property they wanted to donate.

New Ipswich-Pitcherville withdrew application. We await news of further litigation.

32 Lot subdivision on River Rd. has DES approval, some land is going into conservation. Doug Waitt had suggested cluster development. They didn't want to do one. For the future, Doug sees a need to work with planning boards to get them to be "activist Judges" for low impact development. i.e. it would be policy that wetlands are not to be disturbed if there is a way to build without doing so. It would be best if this were not subject to a town ordinance.

Mention was made of Walter Warren, Merrimack's Community development director as a source of information to begin discussion on such a policy.

Greenville- nothing to report

Wilton- Spencer reports a group (I assume it's the Cons. Comm) is going before town to get approval for a \$1.5million bond to buy open land. They are also buying the 26 acres that Frog Pond is on. They would like a letter from SoRLAC (and Souhegan Watershed Assoc.) supporting them. It will be in the form of a 5 year Bond issue.

Also, the planning board has moved from input to deliberating on the Granite State Pit at Stoney Brook and has accepted their plan for discussion.

Note to Angela and Geo. – that's what I have in my notes but it doesn't make sense to me that I would of written it was accepted if they have moved from input to deliberation.

Milford- Building across from St. Pat's Church is not affecting river.

Les asks about activity near Drive In. It's a water pumping station part of the Superfund Site.

Merrimack- Dam study going into review. Extensive testing has been done from site all the way to Everett Turnpike.

New England Chemical Plant, the old Harcross Mills (Civil War era building)- the town is waiting for testing before deciding on whether to buy the lot.

Amherst-Working on Bond issue, need 60% vote to pass.

Apple festival was a success. Made \$5K to put toward Conservation projects around Town.

Conservation Comm building is ½ finished, might put warrant article in town budget. Have plenty of free volunteer labor but need supplies.

There is a proposal by Lowe's to build in town. This is where **Error! Bookmark not defined.** brings up issues involving old "big box" stores that was referred to under the Dev. Review Checklist.

Other Issues-Merrimack Paddler's was asked for input on boat launch at bridge going into airport. It will be on Litchfield side.

Launch at Sagamore Bridge is unusable.

Nov. 13th - State Watershed Conference-available on internet or Concord DES

Souhegan Watershed Adopt a Salmon Program is on and is funded. All towns on Souhegan except Greenville have a program in at least one school. SWA **Error! Bookmark not defined.** has extra coolers if anyone is interested.

Error! Bookmark not defined. Additional DNA testing from Beaver Brook to Post Rd will take place Oct 27.

Next meeting is Nov. 18th, 7:00 Merrimack.

Respectfully submitted,
Kleta Dudley, Sec pro tem