

Minutes of the Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee
Greenville Town Hall
February 17, 2005

In attendance were George May, Spencer Brookes, Les Tallarico, Diane Fitzpatrick, Doug Waitt, Kleta Dudley, Angie Vincent, Marshall Buttrick, Helen Dalbeck and Andy Powell.

Meeting began at 7 P.M. at the Greenville Town Office

Guests: Meredith Cooper and Laura Weit from Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC). A presentation was made to make all of us aware of the Brownfields Assessment Program at SWRPC. Basically this group assist landowners in assessing the damage and course of action to repair and return to normal property that has been damaged by substances that are hazardous. There was a short question and answer session afterwards.

Minutes of January 27th meeting approved.

Updates

Golf Course Expedited Wetlands Permit in Milford- Milford Conservation will not sign the Dredge and Fill Permit. Frank Rich noted that the site visited was not on the plan. Milford wants to ask for a re designed plan. A site specific plan is due by March 23. SoRLAC is concerned they will come back in future and continue to press the need for rip-rapping shore. Diane says they have already said that is their intent. George will write a letter. Marshall wants it noted that it is difficult to comment on a plan without plan before us.

There was discussion at this point on how we acquire plans. Diane wants clarification on “non disturbance” issue with developer/owner. The 50-foot buffer for shoreline protection needs to be mentioned. There were questions about requirements for plantings in buffer zone. Spencer wants a “no mow zone”, Doug asked about fertilizer. Angie noted that there was no shoreline protection area evident on the plan that Diane provided us. Angie wanted to make sure people understood that our group is looking at problems from the point of view of how their actions affect the whole river and not just the section at their site.

Doug suggested we need to allocate a particular response when faced with similar situations in the future where we need clarification of a plan by a developer. Andy suggests we should automatically set them up to come to the next meeting they are able to attend. It is suggested that we invite them to our next meeting and it is determined we will meet in Milford in March and hopefully they will come in and talk to us. Spencer suggests that the letter might ask for a public easement for trails and fishing. Discussion follows about public access.

At this point it is noted that the **Boy's and Girl's Club in Milford** has withdrawn their dredge and fill application and will be changing their drainage plan.

Helen Dalbeck noted that since this is the 2nd golf course along the river it is important to recognize the impact that they make (with regards to pesticides and how they handle shoreline protection).

After Diane sends him notes the Conservation Commission sent to the Planning Board, George May will write a letter to DES with our comments. These comments will include 1. Questions as to how the river buffer is going to be handled, 2. How erosion will be addressed, 3. The 11th Hole,(sorry George, I don't have any notes on what the problem was here, and 4. Public access to shoreline and a pedestrian trail along river.

Merrimack Village Dam Meeting- March 9, 2005 @ 7:00p.m. at Merrimack Town Hall. Andy Powell said he thought the in-depth study was well done and he was expecting a large crowd at the meeting. Major concerns that he has heard voiced are about the possible loss of wetlands after the dam is removed, and the loss of a "historical dam". Pennichuck Water Works says they need to take it out unless the town takes over liability. If the Town takes over responsibility they will required to repair the dam and potentially to build a fish ladder in the future. There was discussion about the bridge. Angie questions test of sediment. Andy says there were no hazardous materials found. It is noted that the removal of the dam will open up 14 miles of river to salmon migration.

After March 9 meeting the next step will be to address what it takes for removal of dam. Pennichuck has grants to take care of the cost related to it's removal. Comments followed about opening up area to public walkways. George noted he was not entirely convinced that the dam removal was necessary and that perhaps the area could be developed for a central park area for Merrimack as they have not central park area now. Diane noted that even with the dam removed it could still be a park area on a natural river. Discussion followed. Diane noted that the river is healthier without the dam.

Souhegan River Watershed Management Plan

Watershed Audits -Angie needs Merrimack and Wilton to respond. She needs to do the presentation to Greenville, she suggested that perhaps Marshall might be able to attend the presentation. After audits are gathered, she will put all the answers and comments in a spreadsheet on how each community answered. This way, all communities can see how other communities used specific tools to address issues and hopefully it will help communities develop site plan regulations and subdivision regulations. Angie made the group aware of a CD-Rom she had received from Nashua River Watershed Association, "Protecting Natural Resources & Planning for Growth" that anyone can order for FREE from

the Nashua River Watershed Assoc. @ 592 Main St. Groton, Ma 01450, (978) 448-0299.

We then discussed the fact that funding was short and Angie was reorganizing her priorities to insure that the Watershed Management Plan would be finished. Water quality issues need to be addressed to comply with grant requirements. The deadline for the plan will be extended. She will not be doing as much mailing. We will use email to receive our information, except for Les Tallarico, his materials will be mailed. She will no longer be coming to our meeting, but will stay in close contact with George May and coordinate agendas with him. She will be working more on Brownfield projects. DES will eventually put together a new grant and NRPC will apply for money.

Helen asked if there was enough money to finish Watershed Plan and Angie answered "yes". George noted that everyone in group would have to dig deeper to get material from local communities that we need for SoRLAC since Angie doesn't have the time to allocate to this.

At this point Angie shared maps of the river that can be used as tools while reviewing projects. She asked us all to take our sections and check for corrections that need to be made. We need to bring corrected maps to next meeting.

Management Plan- Angie needs a small committee to focus on Management plan. Group will probably meet through November. Doug Waitt and Les Tallarico agrees to serve. Celeste Barr's name was mentioned as a possible committee member, but as she was not present at the meeting. Angie will contact her.

Education- Spencer proposes to spend a little more than the \$400 allocated on boards. He needs more pictures. Marshall is getting together with Doug to get some old pictures from Greenville scanned and those will be sent to Spencer.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association/Souhegan Valley Land Trust- The group will be deciding on by-laws at next meeting (Fri. February 18, 2005) We were all invited to join. The group is looking for someone to design a logo.

New Ipswich- Doug will craft a letter concerning the River Road subdivision. Doug is also working with Steve Schaffer at NRPC on a GIS map that plots main and sub(?) watersheds.

Greenville- Nothing to report

Wilton- The water department will be crossing the river above the Pine Valley Mill Dam. It is a Hydro dam just below downtown. The work will be done during the low water stages. (okay, I can't decipher my notes. This pipe (? Is it a pipe? or am I recalling something from the Milford WWTP discussion) will allow for ?? system for fire protection. So sorry, but I'm not recalling what this was for or how it was going to be accomplished)

Milford- Milford WWTP wants to improve pipe by installing a diffuser system that runs all across the river.

Merrimack- Pennichuck Dam has already been discussed. Discussion about Horseshoe Pond, and whether Shoreline Protection applies. This leads to a discussion on how elevations are determined and who absorbs the cost of the survey to determine this. It is the responsibility of the developer.

Amherst- nothing to report

It was agreed we would meet March 17th, 2005 in the Keyes room of the Milford Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned.

Notes taken by Kleta Dudley