

**SOUHEGAN RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2005**

The meeting was held at the Milford Town Hall.

In attendance:

George May, Merrimack
Celeste Philbrick Barr, Milford
Marshall Buttrick, Greenville
Kleta Dudley, New Ipswich

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Old Business:

The **Hayward Farms/Barrett Golf Course** proposal has met all the Milford conservation commission concerns. SoRLAC requests the revegetation or planting of new vegetation to stabilize banks. The developer is willing to meet with SoRLAC regarding any concerns at our next meeting April 21, 2005 in Wilton at 7-7:30. George spoke with Mr. Barrett, Sr. who mentioned the gold industry is not flourishing as well as previously and that he might be willing to sell the property.

Celeste will inquire from the Town of Milford how much the Barretts paid for the property. George will write a letter requesting an extension for comments on the site-specific permit and the expedited wetlands permit.

Merrimack River Dam

George attended the Merrimack River Dam update meeting. Following a feasibility study on the removal of the dam, the recommendation is to allow sediment to naturally wash out from behind the dam. Funding still needs to be obtained for the removal of the dam.

New Business-

Singer Brooks Estate, North River Road, Milford—Little information available on this project. Diane F. told us in advance that the developer is considering placing a conservation easement on the piece of property fronting North River Road and closest to the river. This would help preserve the rural character of North River Road. Celeste will write a letter stating that SoRLAC has no issues with the 12 house development (since that part of the property is outside the river corridor) and that SoRLAC supports the inclusion of a conservation easement on the property.

Milford WWTP discharge pipe replacement –

SoRLAC supports the proposed replacement of the Milford WWTP discharge pipe with is underwater in the Souhegan River. The new pipe will have diffusers and will likely be an

improvement over the pipe currently in place. Our committee recommends that the river bank be planted with native species of vegetation to stabilize the bank and prevent erosion. The plan calls for mulching the hillside (1500 ft² of disturbance), which does not provide long-term bank stabilization. Celeste will write a letter including these comments.

Souhegan District Soccer Field Expansion and Parking Lot–

SoRLAC (Celeste) asked NH DES for complete project description and plans as there was inadequate information provided to discuss this permit application. One likely comment will be to request that the parking lot be of permeable material since it is in the river corridor.

Industrial Storage Facility (And Offices)—Gautier Brothers, Phelan Road, Milford—

SoRLAC has not yet received a site-specific permit application on this. Diane F. provided the committee with a copy of the plans from the Milford Conservation Comm. The purpose and intended use of the facility is still vague. What materials are to be stored, transported (or sold) at this facility? The amount of parking for the number of storage units appears excessive? Is this an office building, a commercial facility, an industrial facility or a storage facility? The plans looks like it is a combination of all the above, yet they are applying as a storage facility. The site appears too small for the buildings and parking lots such that a large cut of the hillside needs to be made to fit it. The Committee is concerned about the hydrological and erosional effects of such a significant and steep cut, especially with a perched aquifer above it. Celeste will write a letter to Milford Cons. Comm. and Milford Planning Board.

Local Updates

The Souhegan Technical Review Committee of the Instream Flow project will present Task II results on the effects of groundwater withdrawals on April 1 1-3 pm in Concord.

Souhegan Watershed Association-- Next quarterly meeting is April 4 at 7 pm at the Wadleigh Library. A filmmaker, who is working on the subject of rivers of the Merrimack Watershed, will present information on the Souhegan River.

The next meeting will be held April 4 in Wilton at 7 pm.