

## Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

Minutes of the March 20, 2014 Meeting

**In attendance** were members George May (Merrimack), Les Tallarico (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Celeste Barr (Milford), Cory Ritz (nominated new member from New Ipswich), Yvonne Beran (Milford), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Camilla Lockwood (Temple) Spencer Brookes (Wilton) .

Guests in attendance were James Jolly, Eagle Scout Candidate from Merrimack, Stephen Pugh, his advisor and Lelia Mellen, Natl Park Service, NH Rivers and Trails.

Meeting began at 7 p.m.

The minutes of January and February 2014 meetings were approved to include the most recent changes from Kleta.

### **New Business:**

James Jolly of Merrimack, a candidate for Eagle Scout, presented his proposal to renovate and redesign the Souhegan River Trail on Merrimack High School property. The new trail, to be open to the public and used by MHS, will be relocated away from the erosional river bank and widened so that the track team can run on it. The Merrimack Conservation Commission and the Merrimack School Board has approved the project. SORLAC voted to approve James' project as well.

**Reconstruction of High Bridge in Greenville.** SORLAC previously requested a viewing area near High Bridge. Such an area does not appear on the current plans for the reconstruction of High Bridge. George will send a reminder of this request. SORLAC believes a viewing area will increase awareness and appreciation of this historical feature of the river.

**SORLAC webpage** on Nashua Regional Planning new Website: The new NRPC website went live 3/20/14. SORLAC's page appears under the first tab "About NRPC" in the section "Other organizations". The information looks accurate. We suggested supplying NRPC with more photos of the Souhegan would improve the attractiveness of this page since it is currently all text.

**The Town of Wilton** voted to partially fund a **conservation easement on the Frye Farm Property.** Wilton Conservation Commission has some protected land adjacent to this on the Souhegan River bank in the area of Monadnock Water Co. It was suggested that a parking area in this vicinity would be useful to increase access to the river by fishermen and hikers.

**Les Tallarico** reported on his donation of **conservation easements** on the north and south sides of the Souhegan River along route 31 in Wilton as far as the town line of Greenville. One section of easements is complete and the 2<sup>nd</sup> section needs more work. Les' contribution brings this contiguous piece of

conservation land to a total of 4200 acres. This area of conservation land includes the Heald Tract, the Sheldrick Forest and more. Les' easements will be held by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and are one of the singlemost significant areas of protection on the Souhegan River. Thank you Les!

Cory attended a conference by Trout Unlimited and Antioch University that showcased **culvert assessment models**. Cory believes this tool ( a spreadsheet with formulas) would be useful to SORLAC. He will follow up on the possibility of gaining such a utility.

**Annual Souhegan River Cleanup June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 8am** . Starts at River Park on Route 31S in Greenville and works downstream.

**Souhegan River canoe trip** listings will be on the SWA webpage starting March 21, 2014.

**Milford Townwide cleanup May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Meet at Keyes Field at 8:30 am and get or choose an assigned cleanup area. Many good stretches of the Souhegan River need cleanup. A cookout at the Masonic temple is scheduled for volunteers at 1 pm.

#### **Local Updates:**

**Greenville**-High Street reconstruction is on hold until the snow melts.

Pilgrim Food received their 3<sup>rd</sup> consent decree on pollution to the Souhegan. This 3<sup>rd</sup> consent decree requires closing the open waste lagoons which will reduce odors and runoff into the stream.. The deadline for compliance is late 2015.

**Wilton**—There is no action on the illegally constructed fish camp on Stony Brook in wilton. The ZBA has met about this but no action. George will sent a letter requesting action to the Wilton Selectmen, ZBA and NH DES.

Swift Corwin will try to get an appraisal of the Horseshoe property for reconsideration for purchase for public access.

**Milford**—The dredging of Osgood Pond and the cleanup of Fletcher Superfund site are both postponed another year.

The Brox property—the town voted not to allow the town DPW to mine gravel and earth products here.

Milford Medical Center—Nelson and Cory will digest the recently received plans and share with the group. Preliminarily, they report that the new medical center facility is predicted to generate less runoff than the current site.

**Amherst**- The use of the Knight property on the Souhegan River in Amherst as playing fields by the town of Amherst was rejected by voters last week.

Celeste will email the group a propped press release re: **prescription collection and disposal practices**. She will also share a poster that can be displayed in libraries, pharmacies and other public places in our respective towns. She shared a packet with Milford Police Chief Viola on the establishment of a permanent prescription collection box at the police station

The **next meeting is April 17, 2014 at 7 pm** at the Milford Police Department.