

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

February 16, 2017

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Rich Hart (Amherst), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.)

Nelson Disco and Celeste Barr excused

Approval of Minutes from December 2016- Minutes accepted.

New Business

Reappointments- George updated members on where we stood with reappointments. There are several post open on the committee. If your town does not have 3 members, there is room for candidates. George suggested inviting anyone interested to a meeting. Kleta's updated email is kleta.dudley@gmail.com

Hitchner AoT (email 1/30)- File Number: 20170130-013 is a proposed building addition. The new addition will be positioned in the current parking lot and the parking will be moved to a location behind the building. George believed the new building would be manufacturing as opposed to administrative. Rich questioned if there will be increased run off but the plans seem to address comprehensive drainage and the former parking lot would have had to have dealt with drainage as well. George will write DOT and let them know that we see no problems with the plan. Cory did note that they requested a waiver for groundwater recharge requirements probably due to the fact they are on an aquifer.

Earth Day Fair in Wilton-On April 22 there will be a community fair at the High school in Wilton. George wants to set up our information display. Celeste has some ideas as well. George will be speaking for approximately 20 minutes about the River. George also asked for other ideas. i.e. bumper sticker ideas, list of invasive species, etc.

Town Reports-George put together a short town report and sent out to all the towns for inclusion in their town's reports

Letter of Support to NRPC-George wrote a letter supporting NRPC seeking grant applications for the assessment of Brownfields.

Merrill Station, Milford, NH- In an email dated Feb 15, 2017, Celeste suggested we look into finding a way to "take offline as a gas station" the Merrill station on Route 101. We began discussion on the possibilities. There is a river gauge at this point in the river. George will contact Milford Conservation Commission and NRPC for ideas on how to proceed.

Old Business

Fletcher Paint- We think the river is all cleaned up. George will try and schedule a tour in the spring and we still want to do some landscape work down behind the Boy's and Girl's Club.

Trails-see Merrimack

Souhegan Watershed Association- Salmon program in Wilton in its final year. George related a funny story about convincing a girl in the 4th grade class to eat a salmon egg and report to the class on how it tasted.

Souhegan Valley Land Trust- No news

New Ipswich- The two articles that the Conservation Commission had on the Town's Warrant Articles went through the Deliberative Session without comment. One had to do with Aquifer protection and the other had to do with increased stream protection. The Conservation Commission is paying to have 4 wells tested in the vicinity of the old town dump off of Page Hill Rd. This dump closed in 1979.

Greenville-No news

Wilton-No news

Milford-No News

Merrimack-Working on a trail from Merrimack River to 80 Acre park at Wildcat Falls. DOT will install signs on Everett Turnpike for the Souhegan River.

Amherst- Amherst's Conservation Commission is looking to have 2 meetings a month. They are currently planning on putting signage on streams but some streams have very long names and it could be problematic. They are also putting trails on line noting places and things of interest such as canoe ports and sledding hills.

Rich also told us about the "Friends of the Orchard." This is a 40 acre area that is being developed for public enjoyment. The grounds are mostly forested with 4 acres of apples that will be maintained. 10 acres of old trees have been removed and a managed hayfield will have trails and paths. Public works has agreed to mow fields and control poison ivy. The area will be open to hold events. George asked about spraying the apples and there was a discussion on spraying and getting rid of poison ivy as well. Rich said that one of the conservation members is licensed to do some forms of spraying and they are not yet decided on how the spraying of the apples will go forward.

Next Meeting March 16. Kleta will not be at this meeting

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, secretary

February 20, 2017