

SoRLAC-Online

October 15, 2020

Chair Ritz called the meeting, conducted via online meeting, to order at 7:00 PM under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, as allowed by Emergency Order 11 under Executive Order 2020-04 in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Secretary Barr conducted a roll call.

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Celeste Barr (Milford), Rob Clemens (Amherst), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), George May (Merrimack), and Peter Howd, (Wilton), and Bill Mahar (Wilton).

Approval of Minutes from September 2020 -The minutes were approved.

LAC Confluence Meeting- Cory, Rich, George and Peter attended this meeting (online). Everyone's assessment was that there was frustration by the LACs and DES about the lack of staffing and enforcement and the existence of loopholes in the Shoreland Protection Act. Cory shared 3 slides from the meeting. One pertained to the rule change which allows DOT to enable minor routine maintenance and repairs to occur near designated rivers without review.

Another new rule change is that installation of docks and most PBN (permits by notification) are outside the LAC jurisdiction.

Cory shared useful tools that are available on the RMAC and LAC websites especially river access maps and interactive mapping tools for NH.

Poodle Crossing LLC Permit application

This is a property at 633 Elm Street in Milford adjacent to the Souhegan River, North River Road bridge and Rt 101/101A. The applicant proposes to build a 3 bay garage on existing gravel driveway. The application shows no increase (slight decrease) in impervious surface. The committee requests that the stormwater generated from the proposed building be controlled on-site by appropriate drainage and infiltration. Perimeter drainage ditches leading to an infiltration gallery would work. The goal is to direct rainwater to subsurface drain to reduce erosion to river.

A letter was sent to DES regarding this.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association- It is unlikely that water quality testing will take place on the Souhegan River next spring/summer 2021 according to George May.

New Ipswich- Nothing to report-

Temple- Nothing to report

Greenville-Nothing to report

Wilton-Some work has begun along the river behind TDS and the Wilton House of Pizza. *Peter-I missed the specifics of this work. Please fill in.*

Milford- Brookstone Manor on Elm Street (abutting SOuhegan River) is allowing a Milford Dog Park on their greenspace. The Milford CONservation Commission is trying to get a conservation easement on 1000' of riverfront here as part of the project.

The former Merrill's convenience store and gas station is going to turn into a 2nd site for the Hilltop Cafe (Wilton). We are pleased it will no longer be a gas station next to the river.

There is a 7 unit condo proposed for Wheeler Street in Milford but not within the SWQPA.

Merrimack- No update

Amherst-Lots of activity but nothing to do with the river.

Next Meeting, November 19th, 7 pm online.

Submitted by Celeste Barr, relief sec. Oct 16, 2020

