

# **Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee**

**Milford Police Dept., Milford New Hampshire**

**June 21, 2018**

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Celeste Barr (Milford), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Rich Hart (Amherst), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.) Tracie Sales from DES was also present.

**Approval of Minutes from May, 2018-** Minutes accepted.

**Memberships-**Everyone is set with current memberships, Bill Mahar's is pending. Discussion with Tracy Sales about how some of the other LACs have Associate Members and there are Members at Large. The only requirement is that the member be a NH resident. George mentioned Cam Lockwood from Temple as being a candidate for a Member at Large.

There was also discussion about sending cards to retired members, specifically Les was mentioned as he still attends meeting when he can get a ride and his technical and historical knowledge has been very useful to the committee.

## **Permit Applications**

### **Merrimack Shoreland Protection Permit- File # 2018-01354**

Chris Guida, soil scientist from Fieldstone Land Consultants had attended our meeting in May to answer questions about this permit application. He was not present for June's meeting. He did not respond until third email that George had sent him regarding questions we had about this permit. George contacted DES and they said the project was still ongoing. Nelson said there was no permit application to town of Merrimack to pave at this site. George reviewed what DES's request to Fieldstone had requested. Apparently, they feel Fieldstone is not in compliance because they have not submitted the plans to Lower Merrimack LAC. Nelson and George are both on that LAC and felt the project would just be thrown back to SoRLAC or

there had been a misunderstanding between DES and Fieldstone as to which LAC they were suppose to be presenting to because of the location of the site at the confluence of the Souhegan and Merrimack, Tracie Sales suggested that Lower Merrimack should at least have the opportunity to say they do not care to comment on this.

It was also noted that Chris Guida was probably not the best choice sent by Fieldstone to do the presentation as his expertise is as a soil scientist and he may not be familiar with other issues. Old hides that had been dumped elsewhere on the site should be investigated and noted. Questions on the drainage should be addressed. George felt drains should be moved. Nelson would like to see "on site infiltration." He wanted no outlet. Chris Guida had said it is "on site" using leaching catch basin and drainage trench Nelson firmly repeated he wanted to see "no outlet." Rich pointed out we don't know the soil type on site and that we don't know what other runoff is coming in from surrounding areas. Cory concurred that it had not been considered. There was some question about capacity of the water filtration plan. The obvious places to put the snow would be in the wetlands around the site which would be illegal according to Tracie.

George gave Tracie our Permit Review Wish List and reviewed the items that we had asked Fieldstone to address. The snow removal and salt and snow storage were of major concern. Nelson wanted to see a designated snow storage area.

Rich asked if there was a trail to the narrow beach and if so, would it be blocked.

### **Hitchner AoT permit application- File # 20180425-065**

Hitchner Manufacturing in Milford is building a new building on the site of a former building. DES has asked for more information.

### **Hazen Construction**

This is at Indian Ledges in Merrimack. Construction is ongoing and we are going to assume they will comply with all of our request.

### **New Business**

## **Elections**

George has resigned as Chairman. George did an awesome job as Chairman since the inception of the LACs and we are all grateful for his service. The amount of dedication he put forth is evident in the fact that we needed to divide his duties amongst our members. After much discussion this is what was decided. Cory Rich will assume the Chairman position with Nelson Disco serving as Permit Reviewer, Rich Hart will continue as Vice Chairman. Celeste will continue as Treasurer in the event we ever have any money. Celeste will also serve as Correspondence Secretary. Kleta will serve as Secretary.

## **Local Updates**

**Souhegan Watershed Association**-Water testing is ongoing every other week except in Watson Park where it is done every Tuesday.

Canoe Trips- George will be leading a 4<sup>th</sup> of July trip from the Amoskeag Fishway to Reed's Ferry.

**New Ipswich**-No news, Conservation Comm. still defining site review policies.

**Greenville**-No news regarding Souhegan, dealing with issues as part of Nashua River Watershed

**Wilton**-Town is trying to acquire Horseshoe Falls. Bill says town is working, at least "superficially" on purchase of the Horseshoe, still hoping the owner will donate it to the town. If the town has to purchase it, it would most likely involve a town vote. In that case they would hope for LCHIP funding. If the town does not purchase it, the owner says he wants to put Condos on the property.

**Milford**-Celeste needs the SoLAC display board and there was some discussion of resuming plans for planting along trail that runs behind the Girls and Boys Club.

**Merrimack**-Short discussion on Overlook project on Chamberlain Rd. Nelson then explained a glitch in the Trail project to build a pathway from Watson Park under the highway. They have run into a money issues because the initial stages involved accessing the site for historically significant artifacts, a historical resources study (like Indian graves for

instance.) This cost about \$66,000.00. The money issue could be solved partially by diverting money from another grant that was secured for a Woodbury St. sidewalk. That action involves seven layers of approval, and they would still need a new grant for the sidewalk.

No significant historical artifacts were found but there were some cement pits that were once used for soaking hides.

**Amherst**-Conservation Comm. Is updating their management plans for woodlands, wetland, meadowlands and orchards, etc. Their last Forest Management Plans were done 23 years ago and the practice then was to allow for smallish  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre open areas within the forest. Current thinking is that larger open areas are more beneficial for more wildlife, hence the expansion to openings as large as 10 acres which of course require more management in the form of mowing to keep them cleared.

**Next Meeting**, July 19, 2018, location to be announced.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, secretary, June 22, 2018