

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Dept., Milford New Hampshire

February 15, 2018

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Celeste Barr (Milford), Robert Clemens (Amherst) and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.)

Guest Presentation by Mark McLeod, Project Engineer, H.L. Turner Group Inc, Concord, NH

Approval of Minutes from Jan. 2017- Minutes accepted.

Permit Applications

Alteration of Terrain Permit, File Number 20171227-181-this is the revised plan for the Merrimack Highway Maintenance Facility. The initial plan was too expensive so it went back to the drawing board. We had previously recommended solar panels and downward facing lights. The new plan has increased parking, but less disturbance of terrain. The original plan had drainage collection and storage underground. That was too expensive. The new plan has an open air infiltration system. Lighting (on buildings and due to traffic flow) will not disturb neighbors. The site will be screened with landscaping. They hope to eliminate existing pavement if money allows.

There is closed drainage on north side of building. It captures and carries drainage to infiltration basin where it can be treated. It allows for groundwater recharging. There are some existing dry wells on site that will discharge to wetlands, the rest will be discharged overland to river. There is no increase in runoff. Oil and water runoff goes thru separators into municipal sewer system. There has been a "trench drain" added. There is a soil scientist that will go out and confirm high water table. It was too cold in January to do so.

There is a maintenance plan and inspection schedule. Building is designed to accommodate solar installation in future. Lighting is only in new area of

parking. Night ski friendly lights are on wall packs and on Pole mounted lights.

We have no objections. We liked the relocation of driveway and are okay with filtration systems, which we feel are easier to monitor and maintain.

Alteration of Terrain Permit for Condo Project on E. Chamberlain Rd, Merrimack- Don't have a file number on this as George had just received plans from engineer and not DES. Just a preliminary view of a plan that will probably come to our attention in the future. It is a 14 Acre site in downtown Merrimack that wants to build 47 two bedroom units. The discussion included connecting the facility to existing pedestrian walkways in the area.

Updates

Milford Oil Tank Removal- This turned out not to be a tank removal but the removal of some pipes. Celeste had noted and notified us of some sort of excavation going on at the BP station in the center of Milford just North off the oval, across from Post Office and clearly within the boundaries of our concern for Shoreline Protection. She had checked the DES website for permits and found none. Turned out that there was a removal of old piping and they did not need a permit, but DES was aware and was monitoring the work. It was noted that paving was later noted at the site. Thank you Celeste for the eagle eyes and follow up.

AL Prime Gas Station UST Improvements, Merrimack- replacing pipes to tanks. No problems, going as planned.

Souhegan Sustainability Fair, Wilton High School, April 14, 10a.m-4p.m.- This fair will target corridor towns. Bill is going to contact Conservation Commissions about trail maps. NRPC has maps for all towns but New Ipswich and Greenville. SoRLAC will have exhibit. Merrimack has brochures of trails and around Wildcat Falls area. George will pick them up.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association-George says plans are being made for water quality testing. He would like additional test for metal and Phosphates.

Canoe Trips are being planned if anyone is interested in guiding a trip, let George know.

New Ipswich- Kleta asked if anyone had heard anything about the rules for Shoreland Protection being changed. Someone had mentioned it at the CC meeting in New Ipswich.

Greenville-No news

Wilton-

Owner of Horseshoe Falls still wants to sell property to town. He wants a warrant at Town Meeting to test for funding. He wants \$300K for 4 lots.

Also, town is studying the possibility of opening the old reservoir as a recreations site (above the falls.) This involves less than 10A of water, so State has no say in decision.

Bill Mahar reminded us about Flynn Company washing gravel at Blood Brook.

Milford-Celeste relayed an interesting account of her use of the U.S.G.S. River Gage Site recently and reminded all of us that we can see real time changes in river level and receive Alerts. In October the river rose rapidly, and she was the recipient of an alert she had set for 9'. She also noted that the gages don't work when they freeze and ice floes are an issue.

There was a conversation about orange booms in Souhegan River that could be seen from the diner in downtown. Celeste explained that her husband had been monitoring this for some time. Apparently DPW put them in place because of an ongoing oil seepage from an unknown source (but there is a motorcycle shop nearby.) This has been an issue for many years and DES has come down to view the site and there was some paving done at some point. Celeste will follow up.*

* see email dated Feb. 16, 2018.

Amherst- The Conservation Commission is still working on their town plan and is starting to look at Souhegan River area.

Rich Hart fell and broke his hip and is presently recovering from his injuries.

Next Meeting, March 15, 2018, location to be announced. Kleta will not be there.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, secretary, Feb. 19, 2018