

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

**Police Station, Milford New Hampshire**

**October 17, 2019**

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Bill Mayer (Wilton), Cam Lockwood (Temple), Cathy Joly (Temple), Robert Clemens (Amherst), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich). Guest Peter Howd (Wilton). Peter is a member of Wilton Conservation and part of the MS4 Stormwater Team.

**Approval of Minutes** -Approved from July 2019.

## **Business**

**Hitchiner- Permit Application**-This is a permit application for facilities that treat hazardous wastewater or generate a hazardous waste from treatment. Hitchiner's waste, after treatment goes to Milford WWTP (Waste Water Treatment Plant), not the River. As Milford's WWTP has approved the discharge permit, and the WWTP is already adhering to state regulations the bottom line is that it won't affect the river. We didn't see any reason to object to this. We were curious what happens to the small amount of sludge that might be present.

There was a short discussion about violations in Greenville by Pilgrim Foods.

Ron suggested it might be nice to have someone come and do a presentation and overview of how the WWTP works.

**Wilton Asphalt Plant**-Ron has gotten a letter (as a member of the Amherst Conservation Commission) asking about the operation of Amherst's asphalt Plant. He had heard nothing about the plans for a plant in Wilton. The plant will actually discharge into Stony Brook which is one of the Souhegan's largest tributary's. There were no plans, and this is not actually in our jurisdiction. Bill Mahar commented that the town had problems with

Quinn brothers in the past and the town is anticipating difficulty with this company as they go through the permitting process. No state or Federal permits have been acquired yet. George said SWA will oppose it. Ron asked what his objections were. George said the location and past history. George said in 2002 Quinn sold quarry to a company called Pike. They also leased the mineral rights to Pike. Pike is owned by another company which in turn is owned by someone else. Peter Howd thinks all the arrangements are in preparation for selling out to a larger corporation. Marshall asked what legal work the town of Wilton had done. So far only preliminary work has been done (or proposed.) Peter noted that the road will be a mess between Wilton and Lyndeborough. Peter also requested that any letters should be sent to the Wilton Planning Board who will address the environmental issues. He also noted thought that the Planning Board has not even seen a plan so letters should be sent after their review. Issues that need to be addressed might include traffic and air emissions. It was noted that DES already has limits on particulates coming out of stacks. It should also be noted that the building size is rather large but the fire dept. signed off on being able to respond to a fire. Bill will follow up after next week's meeting.

**PFOA presentation-**Postponed but a conversation on the new standards was discussed. New standard are 12 ppt (parts per trillion,) former standards were 70 ppt. Nelson thinks they can achieve 4 ppt with charcoal filtering. Merrimack will have a charcoal filtration system. The ratepayers will be paying for it.

### **Old Business-**

Cam asked about the Urban Shoreland Exemption that Wilton was considering applying for. The idea has been dropped. With no state regulation, the town would have to answer to EPA directly and that would necessitate a level of bureaucracy that they are not willing to implement.

### **Local Updates**

**Souhegan Watershed Association-** George will do the end of year report and send us all a note when it is posted.

**New Ipswich-** Nothing to report.

**Greenville-** Mill Pond is down because of repairs to intake to turbines at the dam.

**Temple-** Nothing to report. Cathy will send a letter of support of Wilton Conservation Commission to Wilton Planning Board regarding asphalt plant.

**Wilton-** Nothing beside aforementioned asphalt plant. George reported that he had talked to DES about the unscheduled water flows at the dam on the Milford/Wilton line. DES has taken note of this as this is not the first time it has been brought to their attention. There is discussion between DES and dam operators. Electricity is generated at this site so the owners are subject to FERQ regulations.

**Milford-** Nothing to report.

**Merrimack-** Nothing to report concerning river. There was a short discussion on the quality and cost of sand.

**Amherst-** Ron said there is a development of 200+ homes, in the Beaver Brook watershed being proposed. Doesn't fall within our jurisdiction, but worth watching. Ron said the Conservation Commission is focusing on the storm water implications. Conservation Commission is also looking at water resources in town for the purpose of aquifer protection. Thirty percent of Amherst is served by Pennichuck. They are also working on a Water Resources Initiative. He asked if there was a map of the entire Souhegan watershed. George will bring one to November's meeting. George says the map is also available on the DES website.

**Next Meeting-** Nov. 21, Probably at the **Police Station**. Cam noted that she felt we should not go so long between meetings.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, sec. Oct. 22, 2019

