

# Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

April 17, 2014

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Spencer Brookes,(Wilton), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Celeste Barr (Milford), Rich Hart (Amherst), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich), and guest Kyle Burchard from Meridian Land Services.

Meeting began at 7 p.m.

**Approved minutes from March's meeting.-** There was one change. In the initial minutes, High Bridge had been mentioned as being in Greenville. It is in New Ipswich.

**Memberships-** Kleta completed reappointment procedures and Cory Ritz has been appointed as a second member from New Ipswich.

## **AOT Plans for Milford Medical Center**

Kyle Burchard from Meridian Land Service was in attendance to answer questions about the Medical Center project. He stated that there were many constraints that had to be considered. It will be a phased development which will allow the Medical Center to remain open during reconstruction and access to Kaley Park as well during reconstruction.

There was some discussion on signage to direct the public to Kaley Park

He explained the order of the project planning. As we were mostly concerned with the aspects that affected the river, most of the discussion centered on the numerous rain gardens, "Focal Points", retention/detention ponds, and the controls that were being put into place to minimize the effects of runoff on wetlands and the river.

There are numerous, low impact, small runoff measures in place to break down the runoff.

Kyle explained the wastewater run-off features called “Focal Points.” They are filtration systems that have a “mulch” layer on top. It was stated that this was a non-floatable mulch of a sandy medium. This is probably a mat like substance that needs to be replaced fairly often. Kyle said he thought the manufacturer suggested every 6 months. This layer is responsible for addressing the nutrient uptake in the runoff. Below this layer is an “engineered” layer. We did not discuss this layer. Beneath this layer is an underground chamber.

There was a lengthy discussion on the maintenance of these “Focal Points.” According to Kyle, Fred, the Storm Water Supervisor for Milford, would like the town of Milford have the authority to determine when the matting needs to be replaced and other maintenance done on the “Focal Points.” The thinking here is that this would ensure a more timely maintenance than having EPA deal with it. It would also make accountability easier. The client (St. Joe’s) agreed. We agreed.

There was also lengthy discussion on old and new methods of tracking ground water and storm water management. Kyle stated that this project was constrained in multiple ways, besides the small lot, they were required to adhere to pre-existing limits on retention basins. Discussion followed on retention/detention basins. Cory inquired where data for rain models was gotten from. Kyle said the State. Rich pointed out that the State had recently updated rainfall amounts.

Rich asked about pervious pavement. Discussion followed. Kyle said the client had considered it but decided it was too high maintenance for this site. Kyle also mentioned that although it was not much more expensive the application and installation was critical and there are maintenance concerns. The technology is not foolproof.

Discussion followed on town/client/outsourced maintenance accountability/responsibility.

George had three main concerns. First, access to Kaley Park. Signage needed to be well thought out. Kyle says plans are for traffic to park to be independent of traffic to medical center. There is a dedicated road to park.

Second, George questioned whether expansion has been considered. Kyle said that although there was some unused space in a building already planned, there is not really any room for expansion of any other buildings

on the site and really couldn't be a consideration in the future. They have made maximum use of the site.

Third, George wondered if there was an environmental educational opportunity for the public that could be seized, given the very up to date and current drainage facilities being employed on the site. Discussion followed on what that might involve (plaques and signage) and who might be best to develop this idea. Celeste commented on a site she had seen in Albuquerque and Bill Mahar volunteered that perhaps the Milford Conservation Commission could come up with some ideas.

Kyle pointed out that this project is working under a very tight timeline. Utilities are changing on site but not on road. There will be one construction manager over the entire site.

The site meets the requirements for the Town of Milford's 25yr. flood event with a little "fluff" built in. We all questioned why that number is so low given the recent water events - but the town's requirements are stricter than the state's. Discussion followed on current ability to identify ground water movement and inflow stream studies that might facilitate doing so. Rich asked about any effects on the aquifer that is downstream. There should be no problems.

SoRLAC's response is due by Apr. 28. George's letter will address the following: Kaley Park's entrance must be protected, the educational opportunity should be utilized, the 25 year storm planning is inadequate and a maintenance plan needs to be developed. Nelson was concerned that the ground work and landscaping happen before building so problems don't occur during construction.

**AOT Plans for filling Lagoons at Pilgrim Foods, Greenville-**We did not have these plans at the meeting but all agreed that George will write a letter saying "Good Riddance". There was short discussion about runoff into an "unnamed brook."

**Website at NRPC-**George wants everyone to have a look at site. He plans on eventually posting activities and minutes of SoRLAC on the site. Rich pointed out that the NRPC has some interesting maps and using overlays can facilitate planning for trails and other things. Discussion on river access ensued.

## **Local Updates**

## **Souhegan Watershed Association (Cleanup Tues, June 3, Canoe Trips Calendar-**

Canoe trip schedule was sent via email to all members. Please copy and post around your town.

Thanks to Celeste for work on Prescription Drug Disposal information. National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, April 26, and collection sites will be posted on [www.justice.gov/dea](http://www.justice.gov/dea) . It was thought that the handout that George brought to the meeting might have been included in a previous email, but it is included as an attachment to these minutes. This also could be posted around area towns.

Water monitoring will be beginning soon.

**Souhegan Valley Land Trust-** Nothing to Note

**New Ipswich-** Nothing to Note

**Greenville-** Nothing to Note

**Wilton-**

They are trying to figure out where to put a trail on Frye field. The land is under an agricultural easement which dictates trails based on soil types. Parking might be a problem. They will be going for an LCHIP grant. Last time this was done, there was no supporting measures. Spencer asks SoRLAC to write a letter in support.

Something about a fishing camp and a 3 hour meeting that they “hemmed and hawed about whether they had a meeting or not,” but no action was taken

**Milford-**

**Fletcher’s-** Celeste thinks that the town might actually be serious on its promise to clean up the Fletcher Superfund Site “next year.” She said she read that the town is looking to buy a piece of land adjacent to Keyes Park which would enable the town to provide an alternate entrance to the park while cleanup was underway. The current entrance would have to be torn up in order to clean up the Fletcher site. Cleanup would probably take 2 years, doesn’t address contamination in river but this is what is holding up dam removal. The piece of property that the town is looking to buy was the

site of Permatlach, then the Pennichuck Brewery. Some of us wonder how that possibly could have gone under?

**Pine Valley Mill-** we did not see an application on changes in use of this facility and we pondered why. It now houses apartments and parking might be an issue.

### **Merrimack-**

Nelson said Planning Board had a discussion with a contractor that wanted to develop a piece of land that goes down to the river and was previously zoned for single family large lots. The contractor wants to change to a cluster development. Nelson said that this is an improvement. It is near the Indian Ledges.

Boy scouts are still working on a trail

### **Amherst**

Rich had a question about septic facilities on the Merrimack side of Baboosic Lake. There is not public sewer.

Rich said a representative from NRPC came to discuss the map options available on the site and talk about possibility of trail co-ordination.

Amherst has lost three important individuals recently. The police chief left to take employment in Townsend, MA. The Recreational department head has retired and Sarah Marsham has taken a job in Community Development in Nashua.

George asked if anything has been heard from Brad Knight. Rich said his wife was heading a group that was trying to relocate cemetery from Cemetery Field and had been trying to communicate with Mr. Knight in regards to that issue.

Next meeting Thurs, May 15- venue TBA

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, April, 18, 2014