

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Library, Milford New Hampshire

September 15, 2016

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Rich Hart (Amherst), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Cory Ritz (New Ipswich) and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich).

Guest attending was Kathleen Dixie Blease

Approval of Minutes from August 2016- Minutes accepted.

Old Business-Updates

Osgood Pond Sedimentation-Ongoing, everyone that needs notification about the situation is aware of details.

Chestnut Hill AoT, Merrimack subdivision (File Number: 20160226-025)-George sent a letter but has not gotten a response. Only a small portion of this project falls within our jurisdiction and we didn't want to make recommendations without some further information about the drainage. George received a letter from DES that a permit has been issued. Nelson said he spoke with an engineer from Meridian and was told that the project was not within our jurisdiction and DES had agreed, and that the client was not going to spend time or money to come and attend one of our meetings. However, despite the fact that they have satisfied the DES, they have not satisfied requirements of Merrimack Planning Board. We are not taking any action.

Fletcher Paint recommendations for dredging river bottom-George sent a letter asking for replacement sand to be same type as the sand they are removing. There will be an area for parking and access for taking small water craft in and out of the water.

New Business

Notification for Dock on Waterloom Pond-Kathleen Dixie Blease has applied for a Wetlands application in order to install a seasonal dock on

her property between bridge and dam on Waterloom Pond in New Ipswich. Initial application was “Administratively Incomplete.” Dixie had not included pictures of the location with application. She attended and brought pictures to support the application and has re submitted the application to DES. We had no objections to the dock, and asked only that the area be reseeded to prevent erosion after the dock is installed. George will write a letter to DES reflecting our opinion.

Local Updates

Trails-Plans for a trail along the Souhegan in Merrimack are progressing. A public hearing will be held in Oct. Nelson says no problems have been encountered. George said a monitor asked about iron girders on a beach at Watson Park. Swimmers found them and Merrimack DPW came and hauled them away. Apparently they were remains of an old building that got torn down and tossed into the river.

Souhegan Watershed Association/monitoring-George is putting together a report that will be sent out soon with an overview of 20 years of water monitoring. He used the Amherst canoe port as a point of comparison and says the health of the river has seen little change. Rich speculated that perhaps the rural nature of the land might have something to do with that. Most pollution has been because of animals rather than commercial or residential events.

George commented that there were huge improvements (90% improvements) on the Merrimack over the course of the 20 years. Conversation followed on CSO (Combined Sewer Overflows) and how the procedures for handling them along the Merrimack might have an impact on the river

Souhegan Valley Land Trust-No news

New Ipswich- see Dock on Waterloom Pond under New Business

Greenville-No news

Wilton-There is a rumor of a Riverwalk. Also, an individual from Milford has made it known that there are plans to have an Earthday event in the area next year and is inquiring about Wilton’s participation.

Milford-See Fletcher’s Paint under Old Business-Updates

Merrimack-Bean Road Bridge is now open. This is a former culvert over Baboosic Brook. McGaw Road Bridge is still under construction. During construction they found wooden frame of a much earlier bridge. One other bridge off Route 3 will be the next one to be replaced. All Three bridges were Red Listed bridges.

Amherst-Rich said that the Conservation Commission has lost 3 members. As a result the existing commission has seen the need to have written conservation plans as a means to safeguarding information that might be lost because it is knowledge that a particular member might have had. Also it will provide transparency to the public as to why some actions are taken, i.e. a schedule of when particular pieces of property are mowed, so that it isn't perceived as a random event.

George mentioned that someone had contacted him about a downed tree in the river and that the individual was concerned about the tree being a navigational problem to small water craft.

Next Meeting Oct 20

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, secretary

September 16, 2016