

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Dept., Milford New Hampshire

May 17, 2018

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

Guest Presentation by Chris Guida, soil scientist from Fieldstone Land Consultants, PLLC.

Approval of Minutes from March, 2018- Minutes accepted.

Permit Applications

Merrimack Shoreland Protection Permit- File # 2018-01354

Chris Guida, soil scientist from Fieldstone Land Consultants attended our meeting to answer questions about this permit application. This is a funeral home that is intending to enlarge their parking lot into an area that is mostly gravel because people are already parking there. New lot will be paved and have a new system of catch basins. It is across from Watson Park. Chris did not know information on snow storage or salt usage or the storm ratings of the storm basins. He will send that information along to us.

There was no proposed lighting on the plan, but Chis noted that lighting is usually done to face downward.

There will be some grading but no soil will be removed from site. The current tree line will be maintained. A silt fence will be place during construction.

We expressed concern over the salt that would be entering the river. We were wondering what the Town's policy is on that? George suggested they use Green Pro. We will wait for comment until we get the requested information from Chris and then will submit our comments before our next meeting.

George will respond to DES mentioning our concern about the salt and noting that Watson Park is directly across the river from the site. George also wanted to note that there are animal hides that have been discarded elsewhere on the site. There was a tannery at this site many years ago. Since the site is already used as a parking area, this project will probably be an upgrade to what is currently there.

Revisiting Overlook- AoT permit application- File# 20180213-025

This is pretty much across from the above mentioned funeral home. We had reviewed this plan earlier in the year. They have revised the plan, removing 2 houses which fell within the shoreline setbacks. They are leaving in the trees they were going to cut down and they agreed that the pathway to Rite Aid and nearby condos will be left open. They agreed in writing to all of our request. We had asked for wildlife friendly construction, marked shoreline protection signs, downward facing lights and Green Pro snow removal. There are changes to drainage. We found this a little confusing with the plans we had. DES has no concerns about the snow storage and seems satisfied with the plan. We have already commented on AoT so we have nothing further to add.

Hitchiner AoT permit application- File # 20180425-065

Hitchiner Manufacturing in Milford is building a new building on the site of a former building. DES is allowing them to remove old foundation during the permitting process. The new building will be slightly larger than previous building. The peak flow is substantially reduced with the new plans. Hitchiner is located in an area that Milford considers critical for water recharging.

There was a short conversation about former issues of waste water dumping in the area. Hitchiner is on town sewer and water now. Milford is serviced by Pennichuck.

All permits are in order. Snow storage is good. George will write a letter giving our approval and also mention that we are glad to see downward facing lights and a reduced peak flow. He will applaud their excellent maintenance plan. He will ask that they put up "Dump no Waste" signs and suggest they use Green Pro.

Updates

Shoreland Permit Application, Hazen property, Upham Rd, Merrimack

This property is being subdivided into 4-5 lots. One family member was going to build right on river. George contacted Historical Society to alert them that Fuller's Mill use to be on one of these sites. They brought it to the attention of the Planning Board to make sure the town was aware of what was happening.

AL Prime Gas, Merrimack

Not much discussion. They are just replacing gas tanks.

Souhegan Sustainability Fair, Wilton High School, April 14- Nicely done, George gave a speech to a small audience. There was a very well attended discussion on current Legislative issues.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association-Plans are in progress for water testing. George will be putting out an invitation to a BBQ shortly.

Canoe Trips are being planned

New Ipswich-No news.

Greenville-No news

Wilton-

Town is trying to find funding to buy Horseshoe Falls.

Milford-Celest showed us a picture of sign that has been posted on the river warning that fish caught in the Souhegan should not be eaten. She questioned the practice of releasing trout for fishermen just upstream from an area that had PCB contamination.

Amherst- The canoe port was lost over the winter and is being rebuilt.

Rich Hart is doing better. He attended the Sustainability Fair.

Next Meeting, June 21, 2018, location to be announced. There will be elections.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, secretary, May 19, 2018

