

SoRLAC-Online

January 21, 2021

Chair Ritz called the meeting, conducted via online meeting, to order at 7:00 PM under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, as allowed by Emergency Order 11 under Executive Order 2020-04 in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Secretary Dudley conducted a roll call.

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), Celeste Barr (Milford), Rob Clemens (Amherst), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Bill Mahar (Wilton), George May (Merrimack), Rich Hart (Amherst), and Peter Howd, (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack.) Guest Peter Zaykoski (Merrimack)

Approval of Minutes from December

Business

River's Edge Residential Development- an early preview, not a formal review.

Cluster development of 20 Units in Wilton on 24A. 4 acres are wetlands and roughly 15 acres to be left undisturbed. Lots are small (1/10th of an acre to 2 acres.) This is located off 101 near the dump (recycling station) and borders the river. Fieldstone Engineering is doing the work, doesn't look like they have applied for State permits yet. On the topo maps it appears there are several small streams that may get covered up. There are also steep slopes. Abutting neighbors are not happy about the development, and a few have old surveys showing more wetlands than are apparent on current plans. Cory noted that Fieldstone is usually very good at drainage issues. Rob agreed but also noted that they are very client oriented and his Planning Board has had issues in the past with them. There will be a large retention pond right next to the river and they will have to go before the Zoning Board. They will probably need a variance. Bill commented concerning the number of automobiles (estimated at least 30) the subdivision would create. The location is off a high trafficked highway. It is a State highway so Wilton DPW doesn't have a say. Celeste commented that it is similar to a development behind County Store in Milford, steep slopes and lots of units resulting in lots of cars trying to exit onto a crowded road as well. Speculated that there will be traffic issues.

Nelson questioned the “cluster development” designation and wondered if all the trees would be cut.

Peter said Bart Hunter will be pushing hard for a trail access and will make sure all setbacks are adhered to.

Cory will invite them to next meeting. Peter indicated that he believed Fieldstone would be contacting us.

The sites will have town water but private septic facilities, some shared. The plan doesn't appear to have alternate room for failure of septic systems. The town will be doing a walk on Sat. Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. Peter will send an invitation.

- i. https://www.wiltonnh.gov/government/boards_and_committees/planning_board/cases

MVC Eye Care- NHDES has not approved their permit and have requested more information. Rob checked out the site. He was at the Walgreens which is in front of this site and noted a “timber harvest” in progress. The access road had been improved to accommodate this.

We have not received a response from MVC. Cory will reach out to Tracy and let her know what Rob saw. Celeste and George will take a walk down and try and take some pictures. Celeste noted that town of Milford has to approve a timber harvest. Cory thinks we have a problem with people going around the rules when it comes to clearing land (remember Hayward property.)

Note that George did check out this site the following day (Jan. 22, 2021) and posted pictures on Facebook. His email states among other things that “virtually all the site preparation work has already been done. Drainage is already in. Leighton White Construction is doing the work

RMAC- The River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is meeting next Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The meeting will be held online with a phone-only option for those who need it. All RMAC meetings are open to the public. The agenda and an Outlook calendar item are attached, and additional meeting materials are available on the [RMAC Forum](#). [Agenda](#).

Online

meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/riversprogram>

Online meeting ID: **riversprogram**

(This program works best if you download and install the program ahead of time.)

- Or -

Dial-in number (US): (605) 472-5456

Access code: 901595#

Although they will not be talking about the Souhegan, Cory listed two items he thought were of interest.

IV. 1:55 – 2:30 pm Instream Flow Program – Wayne Ives and Joe Schmidl

- 1) Instream Flow Program Progress Report and Next Steps
- 2) [Instream Flow Program Study River Prioritization](#) (*Vote Required*)

V. 2:30 – 2:50 pm Historic Resource Assessment for Dam Removals – Victoria Bunker

Rob and George will try and make the meeting.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association- Website is still not up. Discussion followed about developing a site through Google or Facebook. George needs help. He was going to contact NRPC and see if anyone there could assist him.

New Ipswich- Nothing to report.

Temple- Nothing to report

Greenville-Nothing to report

Wilton-Storm Water team did an inspection at the TDS Bank site/River Walk area along Mill Brook and found that the silt fences in the area need to be shored up. The TDS Bank site is not so bad, but the town needs to do a better job. Peter noted that a Select Board member is one of the contractors doing the work.

Celeste inquired about the name of a particular brook. It was Mill Brook. She also reported access to a “stunning” trail at the Wilton/Lyndeborough High

School. To access the trail which runs behind the high school to a waterfall, look for an abandoned nature trail on your way up the drive to the high school.

Milford- Visa Pizza (old Merrill Gas Station at junction of 101 and 101-A and right on the river) is open for business, doesn't appear to have outdoor seating at present. Peter noted that this establishment is owned by the same people that run the Hilltop in Wilton.

Merrimack- Nelson reported that the ice skating rink in Watson Park had frozen and is supposedly open.

Amherst- Rob reported that the Storm Water Ordinance with stricter treatment requirements is finalized. DPW went to Sno Pro program for most of the roads in Amherst and have added roads this year to that program. He noted that sand has a high phosphorous load. An Open Space Bond article has been finalized for the March ballot. It is for 6 Million dollars.

Next Meeting, Feb. 18, 2021 online

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, sec. Jan. 23, 2021