

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

October 18, 2018

In attendance were members Cory Ritz (New Ipswich), George May (Merrimack), Robert Clemens (Amherst), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Jim Taylor (Hollis), Cam Lockwood and Cathy Joly (both from Temple), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.)

Jim Taylor is a 41 year veteran of the Merrimack WWTP. He has been drafted to join our group by Nelson Disco. Welcome.

Approval of Minutes from August, 2018- Minutes accepted after a short discussion on the need to continue with the formality of doing so.

Review of Priorities-

- a. Recruitment of new members- Discussed ways to attract new members. Still planning on putting a short article in local papers as well as reaching out to town's Facebook pages and making sure Conservation Commissions are aware that we are recruiting. Bill suggested we contact Jessie Salisbury, a columnist for the Cabinet and the Telegraph and invite her to one of our meetings. Interest in some sort of out-reach program that targeted interested High School kids was mentioned.

- b. Watershed Plantings- The area behind the Boys and Girls Club is small, steep and sandy, not the greatest location for a showplace for replanting but it is still on schedule of task. We still are intending to try and involve the kids at the club. Cathy Joly has volunteered to look into possibility of a grant and to investigate where we might be able to procure plantings at a reasonable cost.

Old Business

This was in regards to Merrimack Shoreland Protection Permit- File # 2018-01354. The State's response to the letter Cory had written seem to reflect that they (State DES) had followed their processes. The applicant had met the minimum standards to qualify for the permit. George viewed the letter as a gentle reminder that some of the things we note that we would like to see an applicant do are not required, but he didn't feel we should quit making valid recommendations. Bill noted that the timing may have been an issue as the State also has guidelines as to how long a permit takes to be considered and approved. Our meeting schedule is not always in parallel to their timeline.

Stream Topic/Education- Cory did a brief presentation on the effects of Streamflow by Urbanization. He discussed the changes in channels due to storm water, flooding, soil makeup, erosion, etc. We are planning on having short topic presentations and discussions at future meetings.

New Business

Bridge-New Ipswich has a new bridge. It is a mystery how the new owner of the land locked property procured permission to build the bridge which has one landing on Town conservation land which specifically forbids such structures. New Ipswich's Conservation Commission's chairman, Bob Boynton has begun an inquiry into what transpired. Cory is going to write to Tracie and question why we were not notified. We are not, however, even certain that the State was notified before the bridge was built.

The problems with the bridge are numerous. There is major concern that the low height will restrict flow in spring runoff and flood the road. It also impedes navigation by canoes and other watercraft on the river.

Project to collect Lead Sinkers- Cam brought news of a presentation by a group called Wings of Dawn a wildlife center in Henniker. SWRPC (Southwest Regional Planning Committee, Temple and New Ipswich are members, everyone else is in Nashua's Planning committee) gave this presentation. Their mission is to put "mailboxes" into recycling centers around the State to collect lead sinkers. The boxes are \$40, but It may be that they are free to municipalities but not certain on that. It was suggested that putting them at boat landings might make sense as well. We are not

sure who is responsible for collection of the weights. Cam is going to try and find answers and will send contact information to Kleta, who will pass it along to members. It can then be passed along to member's Conservation Groups, Planning Boards or Hiway Dept. in our respective towns.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association-Initially, nothing to report, however when pressed, George said he'd finally submitted reports on last summer's water test to the SWA's website. He is working on graphs that show pollution trends over approximately 10 years, based on E.coli counts. He also noted that Dissolved Oxygen levels always start off excellent in the spring but end lower as the season passes, but they are still okay. There was then a discussion about DNA testing that took place a few years ago to determine the cause of pollution levels at the canoe port in Amherst and how it had led to a lot of testing further up the river in Wilton. Discussion also followed on the pros and cons of separating sewage and storm water and Nashua's method of using holding tanks to process excess flow.

New Ipswich- Nothing besides aforementioned bridge.

Greenville- There will be a walk at 2:00P.M. this coming Saturday to view a piece of Conservation property that trails will be built upon. Meet at Town Hall.

Wilton- Purchase of Horseshoe Falls is still being discussed. There will be a warrant article on the next town meeting to purchase the 3 lots.

Milford- Nothing to report.

Merrimack- Construction has started on an elderly housing facility that we reviewed previously. It is located on Chamberlain Rd.

A brief history was discussed of the production of PFOAs by 3M and then DuPont. Discussion on its pervasiveness in the environment and who did the testing in Merrimack.

Amherst- Nothing to report.

Temple- Cam would like to discuss with George the possibility of getting some streams in Temple tested.

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, secretary, October 18, 2018

Next meeting at Celeste, just kidding, but we all enjoyed your hospitality.

See you at the Police Station Nov. 15.