

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

August 20, 2015

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Yvonne Beran (Milford), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Cory Ritz, (New Ipswich), Rich Hart (Amherst), Paul Indeglia (Amherst), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich)

Approval of Minutes from June 2015- Minutes accepted after a change from impervious to pervious on Page 2.

Introductions- Paul Indeglia has joined SoLAC as a representative from Amherst. He is a self employed environmental consultant.

Old Business

Jones Crossing- The bridge was dropped last week. Yvonne and Celeste have been tasked with putting together a plan for a park with parking and perhaps a kiosk with historical information. Hopefully, there will be access to the river. Funding is not yet determined.

Kinder-Morgan Pipeline-Nothing new. George was not allowed to speak at the scoping session in Milford since he was not an "elected official". He was able to submit written comments. George said everyone at the meeting was against the pipeline. He also thought that Kinder-Morgan may be feeling pressure at the unanticipated negativity of the locals.

Our view:

1. Go Away
2. If you stay, pick a different route (Amherst suggested following 101.

George, who is also in the Merrimack LAC, said that they are asking for mitigation to improve access to Greeley Park in Nashua. Paul was of the

opinion that we should ask for the sun and moon as they are just going to come in with their bulldozers and change everything.

We are still in the queue for a meeting with Kinder-Morgan. George assures us that even though it has to be a public meeting, he will make sure it does not get out of hand and the Kinder-Morgan engineers and construction and political representatives will be able to do their explaining and answer our questions.

Invasives Workshop- This was held August 13. It was a success and well attended. <http://www.nhrivers.org/river-runners/> is the website that has the power point presentation.

Piscataquog Land Conservancy proposal- Spencer was not present. George will invite their representative to a meeting to speak. George gave a quick explanation as to what the Piscataquog Land Conservancy was since Paul was new to SoLAC.

New Business

McCabe Property- The problems with this property were on the agenda of the Sept. 2014 meeting. The Permit is new. File # 2015-02037

We did not receive any plans for this Permit. There was a lengthy discussion about what we should do about this. George had prepared an email to send to Frank Richardson concerning this. The SoLAC group helped him condense the message and helped with some of the wording.

Paul noted that if there was a file number there must be a plan. George said that he had spoken with Frank about the missing plans and Frank had told him that he (George) should be able to find one somewhere. Paul suggested quoting the RSAs in the email. Paul also suggested contacting the Attorney General. Rich reminded us that we need to keep very specific records of any exchanges we have with DES.

Marshall asked how the permit came to our attention if we hadn't gotten plans. George explained that DES posts weekly updates of all accepted permit applications. That is where George got a copy of the application.

Discussion on the permit for a proposed project to build log jams along 1,000 ft. of bank. This is to protect farmland and a farm road. Previous farming practices (mowing to shoreline for one) have exacerbated the erosion. As Cory said "there's a lot of meandering going on." George, Cory

and Paul all agreed that the river will do what it wants. Paul noted the Turkey Hill Bridge is stationary, the river won't be. Cory agreed and noted that the Agents for Robert McCabe were very competent. Cory agreed with their method but acknowledged it wouldn't last forever. The method involves cutting logs, leaving on the root ball, jamming them into the bank with the root ball end out. Soil would be replaced on the surface and a riparian border would be attempted. George is against it. George wants to let the River run its natural course. Paul and Cory feel that the amount of sediment being moved is un-natural and there is a serious problem.

George is rewriting his email and will seek input early Friday as the period for comments close the following Friday. He will ask them not to approve the permit until we have seen the plan. He will also note our concern about the expedited nature of the permit.

Cory offered to give a presentation on erosion, watershed science and stream restoration. We all could use this information.

Shoreland Permit for CVS- We reviewed the plans that were submitted. This is for a CVS that is proposed for Edgewood Shopping Center in Milford. Paul felt there should be more vegetation as it would alter the temperature of the water running off the parking area. George will write a letter commenting positively on the plan and note that we would like to see a vegetation plan. He will also compliment them on sending us the plans early.

Seavern's Bridge-There was discussion on developing a park here with a stabilized stairway for boaters. There might be grant money available through DPW.

Alene's Candles- Bill noted that he had not had any idea how labor intensive and expensive it was to maintain pervious pavement and cautioned that we should be careful when recommending it. Paul commented that it does work.

Local Updates

Trails- Bart was not present

Souhegan Watershed Association/monitoring- River was perfect for swimming. Downtown Wilton and Milford had high e-coli counts (up to 1,000) but the upper and lower river was fine.

Souhegan Land Trust- Nothing

New Ipswich- Nothing

Greenville- Still no vegetation planted on the High Street washout area. George will send letter to Board of Selectmen.

Wilton- Only thing discussed in town right now is pipeline.

Milford- BROX property is up for sale to a developer.

Yvonne says that the town is selling the northern part of BROX, but it is not clear whether the BOS are at liberty to sell without going to town vote.

Marshall asked why they had to cut so many of the big trees down along the stretch of land next to the river near the Milford/Wilton line where they intend to put in a turning lane. Seems counter productive. Paul suggested that Eversource might have carte blanche to do as they please.

Amherst- Planning Board is looking at what are the prime things that need to be done to fix problems and to serve the public. The list includes the following:

1. install sewer along 101-A
2. find a way to fund sidewalks, bike paths, etc.
3. open space preservation

There will be a Cider Festival next month in Amherst.

There was a short discussion on river signage at Beaver Brook and Souhegan, and dam removal.

Merrimack-They are looking at opening a marijuana dispensary.

Next meeting September 17, 2015

Submitted by Klea Dudley