

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

January 17, 2019

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Cam Lockwood (Temple), Celeste Barr (Milford), Les Tallarico (Wilton), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich.) Guest Brent Cole, engineer from Keach-Nordstrom Associates

George May chaired the meeting as Cory Ritz was out of town on business.

Approval of Minutes -Approved from December, 2018 with correction to submission date.

Business

Overlook Estates, Merrimack, Alteration of Terrain Permit Application AoT 180213-025-This is an amended application that we had already reviewed and commented on last spring. Brent Cole was present to explain what the project entailed. They will be creating a 2:1 slope on a piece of property they own on Chamberlain Road across from the Estates and using the fill in the Estates area of the project. The lot is less than 20,000 sq. ft. The alterations to the property were probably necessary anyway if anyone were to develop the land at a later date in the opinion of Brent. The drainage in the Estates does not change. Runoff now is going into the town system and not the river. There is a temporary drainage area for the cleared area. Drainage in the main site (the Overlook Estates) is set for a 100 year flood range, but Brent said the drainage is not an issue. He explained the requirements and limitations that went into the entrance road and why the fill would be necessary. The way the road is now designed, there will be close to a perpendicular entrance and staging area for entrance into traffic on Chamberlain Road. At present there are no plans to plant trees.

Brent then addressed the comments we had sent to him last spring. I did abbreviate the comments (numbered) from George's original letter.

The replies, in quotes, are from the prepared presentation that Brent gave us. He gave me the printed version to use for these notes. I did not abbreviate these.

1. SoRLAC had requested access to the adjoining property from the cul-de-sac to allow easy passage to the pedestrian trail and pedestrian bridge that crosses the river just upstream, opening up access to trails on opposite side of the river and access to the Wildcat Falls Recreation Area.

“The Applicant has attempted to negotiate an easement with the abutting property owner to provide the requested access way. The Fire Department also liked the idea of interconnection between the properties to provide secondary access to both. Unfortunately, access to the adjoining parcel is not possible as they were unable to reach an agreement that satisfied all parties involved.”

2. An existing gravel trail should be allowed to remain for public use.

“The existing gravel path, that crosses through the property, was intended to be used solely by the Town to access and maintain the sewer system located within the easement area. The gravel access is being rebuilt to provide the Fire Department with a second means of access to the Overlook property, but still not for public use. Both ends of the gravel access are gated with “do not enter” signs to prevent the public from entering the private property. Public access along this trail/gravel road will be prohibited. Given that this is a private property, public access brings liability to the proposed homeowner's association.”

3. Catch basin marked with “Dump no waste...” stickers were requested.

“Refer to the Construction Details (sheet #24) for specifications pertaining to the “Dump no waste...” placards that will be used on all proposed catch basins.”

4. Wildlife friendly erosion control product should be used and maintained during construction process...

“Refer to note #8 on the Erosion Control Plan (sheet #10). Erosion and sediment controls are required to be functional until final stabilization regardless of the speed of construction.”

That being said, coconut netting is being used.

5. Landscaping and lighting issues were discussed.

“Note #27 on the Overview Plan (sheet#1) has been modified to include the use of a Green Snow Pro contractor for snow plowing.”

6. Storm drainage- we had requested something more than 50 year.

“The development of this property is roughly 35’ higher than the 100-year flood plane. Although not required, we analyzed the 100-year frequency storm event for the proposed project. The peak elevation of the infiltration pond in the 100-year storm is expected to be lower than the elevation of the emergency spillway, therefore, no stormwater will exit the pond during this large storm event. We hope this will relieve any concerns the Committee has.”

George will send a letter saying we have no further comments, with a copy to Brent.

Announcements and Reminders

Kathy Black has left Rivers and Lakes Program to join NHDES’ pollution prevention unit. Jen Drociak is new Watershed Coordinator. Jen is coming from Land Resource Management Program (LRM) where she was a Compliance Inspector.

Financial disclosures due by Jan. 18. There was a short discussion on conflict of interest and why the State was requiring us to fill these out.

Celeste has drafted a letter to Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club. She will send it out but said she had not included a lot of detail in this initial

letter. She wants him to be enthused about the idea before she explains that the request for the Grant needs to come from the Boys and Girls Club. She was afraid of overwhelming him with detail at the beginning.

Local Updates-

Souhegan Watershed Association- George handed out new baseball caps to folks who were not at last month's meeting Thanks to the Watershed Association.

New Ipswich- The bridge is legal. Turns out the town tax map was incorrect and the land that the bridge was built on was owned by the individual that put it in. At the Conservation Commission's last meeting (Jan.9), the Chairman (Bob Boyonton) explained in one detailed history how this came about and in a separate report (which was mailed to all Boards in town and their members) the CC's recommendations for the future. There were several members of New Ipswich's Board of Assessors and Planning Board who showed up at the meeting who have belabored the point to the Selectmen to take action to prevent these mistakes in the future. The Board of Assessors had recommended that the town bite the bullet and get a GIS survey done and use the services of that company to update and record the tax lots. They had an estimate given to them in 2017 which the company agreed to stand by when contacted last week. The cost to the town was 130K. (New Ipswich has 2270 lots) there is a \$2500.00 initial fee as well and an annual fee \$2,400 for updates and recording, but we currently pay SWRPC \$2,200 for updates and they are often inaccurate. The Selectmen feel a further cost analysis needs to be done before presenting the taxpayers with the cost.

Greenville- Nothing to report

Temple- Cathy's email about her progress in regards to the Milford Boys and Girls Club (See Milford update) sparked a conversation about following up and addressing issues that have been decided upon in the past. The rain gardens in some Milford projects were two such projects, specifically the one near the Medical Center.

Apparently, it is skewed in the wrong direction. Can we remind the town of their duty to the public to address these?

George passed along a map of Temple with several sites for Cam and Cathy to review for water testing next test season.

Wilton- Still working on purchase of Horseshoe. There have been some individuals complaining about issues at the recycling center. Bart has contacted George about plans for this year's Sustainability Fair. Celeste noted that there is a group that promotes documentaries to do with sustainability at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre.

Milford- Short discussion on the plantings for the Boy's and Girl's Club. Celeste working on funding ideas. Cathy was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following email detailing her progress.

From an email dated Jan. 17, 2019-

Mary Tebo suggested our native silky/grey/red dogwoods might do well there (which the state nursery does sell)

- The NRCS rep, Kim Bakker, kim.bakker@nh.usda.gov, is happy to provide technical assistance. This was her initial feedback - "Depending on the severity of erosion, slope, and soil structure, you may need to implement a combination of structural and vegetative methods to restore stability, especially on slopes greater than 3:1. This could involve large boulders, rip-rap, or logs, but it's difficult to say without seeing the area. I would recommend a seeding on the banks before planting trees or shrubs to help establish cover and keep soil in place, since as you mentioned, digging holes would cause further erosion. Once cover is established, then trees and shrubs will be a great addition as the roots will help keep soil in place." Attached below are two documents she forwarded - one on preparing the site and the other on possible seed mixes. Cory, when you're back from traveling, can you please forward to Kim the pictures of the riverbank?

- NRCS grants are not a match for us. I think we (as both SoRLAC and Boys & Girls Club) would qualify for the State Conservation Committee Grant Program, <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/scc/grant-program.htm>, however the grant applications are due September 2019, to be awarded in 2020.

Grants are mostly in the \$10,000-\$20,000 range and awarded to tangible projects that protect natural resources, and our project would meet several of their focus areas.

Cathy also included two attachments with her email. One a list of plants and one a handout from the USDA for conservation Practices for Critical Area Plantings. If you did not receive her email and would like me to forward it to you, let me know.

Merrimack- Buckley's restaurant hasn't come to Planning Board yet. This is the bakery that was requesting a permit to enlarge their fire escape.

The Canoe port at Severn's Bridge is slated to get an upgrade if funds are approved.

Amherst-George saw an article that there was meeting addressing infrastructure improvements.

Next Meeting-Feb. 21, at the **Police Station**

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, sec. January 20, 2018