

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Department, Milford New Hampshire

September 17, 2015

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Celeste Barr (Milford), Bill Mahar (Wilton), Marshall Buttrick, Cory Ritz, (New Ipswich), and Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich).

Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Rich Hart (Amherst), and Yvonne Beran (Milford) could not attend and asked to be excused.

Approval of Minutes from August 2015- Minutes accepted

Review of Membership Updates- Rich Hart has been reappointed and George is awaiting confirmation for Paul Indeglia (Amherst.)

Old Business

Jones Crossing Update- There is a pullover and a fence is up. Apron is paved. There has been no decision on a sign. The Historical Society is part of the conversation. It will probably not be granite. The old sign from the green bridge will be displayed. Celeste spoke with Chris Costantino about a kiosk. There would have to be someone or group willing to maintain it. Probably not in the plans at this time.

Kinder Morgan Pipeline Update- George went to the Milford Open House at Hampshire Hills. It was not well attended. He spoke with the gentleman in charge of the route who told him that Kinder Morgan (KM) would be announcing a new route for Amherst. It will be passing very closely behind Home Depot but this Amherst proposed route is much better than former route as it avoids river and wetland crossings. George asked about the route over/under the Souhegan on Route 31 in Greenville. The man didn't know, speculated they might move the crossing downstream. Marshall

pointed out that that would put them in Wilton or into the gorge area of the river.

George also spoke with a gentleman who said he was in charge of construction (different from last head of construction that George previously spoke with.) George talked to him about the Greenville crossing. The man said they might do horizontal boring, maybe pits on either side of river. He told George the pipe had a maximum bend of 14 degrees. We speculated that without a break and connectors (i.e. pit and horizontal boring) the buried pipe would have to begin close to a mile back from the river to reach the 80' depth they have proposed.

KM will probably submit a proposal in October. Marshall pointed out that if the proposed route is changed, the new landowners will have to be notified. George will give Marshall contact information. Marshall is currently in negotiations with KM as the pipeline crosses his property.

There were articles in the Nashua Telegraph and Manchester Union Leader yesterday and today (Sept. 16 and 17, 2015) announcing that the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) had issued a report stating there was a need for the pipeline.

George asked about the gas not staying here. He was told it "was not in the cards now." KM only constructs the pipeline. They own it and lease it out. It is up to the leasing party to determine where it goes. There is talk of lateral lines being added to line that would service local area the pipeline runs near. One is Keene which currently has 47,000 customers using propane which is currently delivered by truck. They have not been contacted yet.

Piscataquog Land Conservancy update-George has contacted new director and invited him to come to a meeting. Date has not been set.

McCabe Property Update-We had a long and contentious discussion. This is in Merrimack near the Turkey Hill Bridge. We have until Oct. 18 to respond. George and Paul did a site walk with Fish and Game. George does not feel there has been any significant erosion over a span of the last several years and that rip rapping is not necessary. George had aerial shots and topo maps from the last 50 years showing the river's path to support his argument.

Cory commented that GPS maps indicated a more substantial loss than was apparent on the maps George had. Marshall suggested sending a letter that we would not object to riprapping if they agreed to stop mowing right up to the banks' edge and put in and maintained riparian buffer. We all agreed the road should be moved. Cory and George had a long discussion on changing rivers. George is against the rip rapping. He wanted to ask that a riparian buffer be planted and monitored for a year, then make a decision on rip rapping. Discussion on who was going to monitor it. It was suggested that we do the monitoring. Kleta objected to SoRLAC being the monitors as we have no authority. George thought Hillsborough County Conservation will monitor if the rip rapping is approved. Bill and Kleta felt that DES was going to make a decision now and it would be pointless to suggest putting a decision off for any length of time.

Cory felt that river management in this instance was in the best interest of the river. Celeste voiced the necessity to stop the erosion, and she and Cory pointed out that sediment kills the river and causes pollution. It was clear we were not going to reach a consensus. We took a vote, and it was decided that George would write a letter to DES agreeing to rip rapping but only if certain conditions were considered. Cory made a motion to require a planting plan and a maintenance plan, including who was going to make sure the maintenance is done. We are requesting there be no mowing within 50' of the shoreline and there be natural planting done in that 50'. We also requested they move the road. Discussion followed on types of rip rapping and river stabilization. George would like it noted in these minutes that he was in total disagreement with the plan to rip rap the river.

There was also discussion on circumstances requiring larger culverts and how NRPC was working with towns determining what changes needed to be considered for anticipated climate changes.

Cory wants to see planning plan and maintenance plans.

Local Updates

Trails-George is going to invite Bart to a meeting and promise to schedule him early in the meeting. He has attended several meeting in the past and been unable to update us due to limited time. There is work being done on trails on the Heald Track in Wilton and on the Rail Trail near Marshall's

home. Marshall said Bart had spoken to him about needing work done with a tractor and rake.

Souhegan Watershed Association-Finished water monitoring, results are on the website. George noted that SWA will be writing a letter against the rip rapping on the McCabe site.

Souhegan Valley Land Trust-Nothing

Amherst- Nothing else beside previously discussed matters.

New Ipswich- High Bridge is almost done. They are adjusting the road approaching the bridge.

Greenville-DES is investigating a Shoreline violation behind Chamberlain Mill. A tree was cut down. Marshall suspects it is a neighborly feud.

Wilton-nothing.

Milford-nothing

Merrimack-nothing

Next Meeting Oct 15, 2015

Kleta Dudley, secretary