

SoRLAC-Online

March 18, 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), Rich Hart (Amherst), Cathy Joly (Temple), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), George May (Merrimack, and Peter Howd, (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack.) Guest Peter Zaykoski (Merrimack)

Approval of Minutes from February 2021- Done

Old Business

River's Edge Residential Development- There will be a site walk April 3, at 1:00 p.m. Peter will send out an email reminding everyone. There will be a big crowd so bring a mask. Planning Board, Zoning Board and Conservation Commission will be there, maybe Water and Sewer as there is a lot of discourse about whether town should provide water to the site. Cory, Cam and George are going to try and make the walk.

MVC Eye Care- No updates

New Business

Ted Arcidi Property-This is the old Hayward Farm Property. There is no violation. Agricultural guidelines were followed. Tracie had also followed up with a question as to future development. It would only be a violation if the development involved new activity that is not exempt without a permit. Tracie's letter is available for viewing in an email from Cory with March's agenda, dated March 17, 2021.

Rob asked if they had worked with "local Representatives." George thought we should inquire. Rob offered to so do with NRC. There was short discussion on the forestry permits he had gotten. Celeste says Milford local representatives

seemed pleased with the development. Cory asked Rob to also inquire about future development and permitting if Mr. Arcidi begins to develop land for something besides agriculture. George thinks we should keep them aware that we are paying attention to what happens at the site.

Ted Arcidi Property, Pesticide Control-Pesticide Control Special Permit Applications (21-098 and 21-101) The applicant has proposed treatment of invasive species along 6735 feet of the client's property which abuts the Souhegan River. The applicant has proposed treatment of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, Oriental bittersweet, Honeysuckle spp, and Multiflora rose. Foliar applications using the pesticides Rodeo (glyphosate), Polaris (imazapyr), Garlon 4 Ultra (triclopyr), and Escort XP (metsulfuron-methyl).

Cory had checked out the Pesticides and they were the standard used to treat the invasives present. Rob had reached out to a members of the Amherst Conservation Comm. who was an arborist. His take was that plan was not inconsistent with what they would see with work done in Amherst and that the company doing the work was a reputable contractor. Celeste pointed out that the chemicals were still probably toxic to the wildlife and fish. It is a mile of shoreline and there are Eagles' nest in the area. We know that Tracie at DES is aware of our concern for this site. Celeste is worried that if the fish are poisoned, the eagles eating them will also be poisoned. Rob questioned if the state was aware of the eagles. There was discussion as to whether they were still endangered or just considered a protected species. Cory asked if Rob's contact knew it was a shoreline that was being addressed. Celest wants to confer with Fish and Game. After a lot of discussion it was decided that we invite Mr. Arcidi to one of our meetings and invite someone from Fish and Game and take the opportunity for having some questions answered and perhaps get a presentation for what Mr. Arcidi's future plans might be.

In the meantime, we questioned the use of the pesticides at all. All of the invasives listed are present in surrounding shoreline and will remain present due to occasional seasonal flooding. If the shoreline is the only affected area, how is that interfering with his agricultural planting? If pesticides must be applied, we would prefer a manual application. We

don't object to the removal of the invasives, we just question the method of application and its fallout.

The period for comments is before we meet again. Rob is going to write a letter addressing our concerns about method of application and expressing concern that other farmers in the area might have. He will address comments and questions and request to Michael Bosiac and copy Tracie Sales. He will run the letter by SoRLAC members for comment. Celeste will look into a contact at Fish and Game, Matt Carpenter.

Town of Merrimack, Pedestrian Walkway- This one is for a Wetlands Permit to put a 4' wide culvert in place to cross a seasonal brook that drains through what is now an evolving meadow. The brook is dry in the summer. Before the dam removal it was part of a mill pond but now is 6 feet above ground, so really is no longer a wetlands, but the concept has not changed. A footpath is planned across this meadow and a culvert is needed to comply for the permit. Cory wanted to know how the culvert would affect the river. Nelson said it was a long way from the river.

The engineering plans for this project were very professional, thorough and well documented, although more than one of us had difficulty discerning where the river was on them. Riparian plantings will be used, Cory thought more would be better. He also noted that culverts didn't make great aquatic passageways, but this would not be critical in a seasonal waterway. The plans detailed a larger portion of the pathway as well. We all agreed this was going to be a great addition to Merrimack. Nelson gave us a brief history of the project. It began in 2015, there have been archeology studies for artifacts and human remains, there have been two separate historical studies, they have had to deal with the remains of the old tannery. There was a bridge proposed for this crossing, but it was deemed to be too expensive. Mitigating wetland had to be purchased as well by the town.

Rob and George felt positive support for access to the river is important. The proposed schedule to advertise for construction is fall of 2021. A letter of support will be sent. We have sent several in the past for this project as well.

Best Practices-We want to review our own wish list for projects that affect the river. We would like to review criteria other sources have developed as well. Cory had put together a list of sources he had provided for reading. Time was short and we tabled this discussion till next month. He is going to work on a file that will allow sharing of information any of us might feel would be of use to our Wishlist.

Local Updates

Souhegan Watershed Association- Peter Zaykoski is rebuilding the SWA's website. 20 years of past water testing information will once again be available soon. George, Rich and Peter have scheduled a meeting for Monday March 22 at 6:00 P. M. to work out some details and recover further information. Cory commented on how valuable past information is for building ecological models for future predictions. George said the Souhegan is in pretty good shape DO (Dissolved Oxygen) and e-coli wise. There may be a few water test done in the late summer. There was a short discussion on source of e-coli. A few years back it was found that septic from Wilton was getting into the river. The situation was resolved.

New Ipswich- Nothing to report.

Temple- Nothing to report

Greenville-Nothing to report

Wilton- Nothing besides previously discussed items.

Milford-Nothing besides previously discussed items.

Merrimack-Nothing besides previously discussed items.

Amherst-Rob gave us an update on the Eagle Scout project that intends to clean up the 122 Canoe Port and install a set of steps and a launch. The launch as currently planned will be parallel to the steps. They are waiting to hear from DES as to what hoops they will have to jump through. A question was asked if they needed to worry about being ADA compliant. Rob hopes it does not get that complicated. Celeste suggested Rob might want to visit Milford's canoe site at Kaley Park behind St. Joe's medical center in Milford. And just for the record, during this discussion about

canoeing it was noted that in 1987 Money Magazine voted Nashua one of the best places to live in the U.S. The picture on the cover was of the canoe launch in Merrimack, but if anyone has a copy of the magazine George would really like to have a copy.

Next Meeting, April 15, 2021 online

Peter Howd will contact Cory with Zoom information

Submitted by Kleta Dudley, sec. March 19, 2021