

Minutes of Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee

Milford Police Station, Milford New Hampshire

February 20, 2014

In attendance were members George May (Merrimack), Les Tallarico (Wilton), Nelson Disco (Merrimack), Marshall Buttrick (Greenville), Celeste Barr (Milford), Cory Ritz (hopefully new member from New Ipswich), Michael Redding (Merrimack), Kleta Dudley (New Ipswich). Guest in attendance were Camille Lockwood (Temple), and Bart Hunter (trail co-ordinator from Wilton). Representatives from the State DES, Jacquie Colburn and Tracie Sales, as well as representatives from several other LACs.

Meeting began at 7 p.m.

Did not approve any minutes from a previous meeting.

This was a joint meeting with the State DES and several other LACs to review statutes and other topics. There was a very short SoLAC meeting held afterwards.

New Ipswich- Discussion on High Bridge's replacement. It appears from the plans that the new bridge will be wider and raised off the old stone bridge beneath it. George will write a letter suggesting that a viewing area be considered in the plans.

Wilton- Camille spoke in favor of a proposed easement in Wilton on Abbot Hill. The property is part of the old Frye Farm near High Mowing. It has 800 Feet on the Souhegan and is approximately 160 Acres. Hi Mowing School will have the easement and will use some of the property for agricultural uses. The town is asked to contribute \$80,000 toward the 1.6 million needed to purchase the land.

Bart explained to the group the disagreements in town over the property. Some think that the town already has too much land in conservation (at present it is about 17%), and some feel conflicted because of the involvement of High Mowing School in the project.

Russell Foundation is facilitating the project. It was stated that \$0.13 on every dollar is lost when a property is developed, not so with industrial and conservation land.

Les Tallarico announced that he is in the process of putting land that has 1,000 feet of frontage on the Souhegan into a conservation easement. Les also moved that SoLAC write a letter to the Wilton Conservation Commission and the Wilton Selectmen supporting the purchase of the Abbot Hill property.

Trails Update- Bart went to a Brown Bag lunch sponsored by NRPC (Nashua Regional Planning Commission). They are excited about out trail mapping plans. Members should be collecting town maps or pointers to town maps for Bart. He would like to start walking and GPSing trails in March and April. He has already begun to check out trails in Wilton.

Adjourned around 10 p.m.

Next Meeting-March 20, 2014, location to be announced

Submitted by Klea Dudley, secretary, Feb. 24, 2014