

Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC)

Meeting Minutes: August 20, 2026

Milford Police Station

Agenda

Cory Ritz, Alan Preston, Marshall Buttrick, Eric Doberstein, Rich Hart, George May, Nick Principato (NRPC)

Old Business: Review and approve July minutes: July minutes were accepted by the committee

Old Business AOT letter follow up letter: Cory shared the below letter in the agenda identifying that the AOT permit for Eversource identified the need to respond to SoRLAC. Cory indicated no follow letter was received.

- Marshall suggested Cory contacted DES to inform them we have not received a response letter.
- Cory commented he appreciated DES taking our suggestions seriously

Below is copy of the email from DES to applicant:

RE: Alteration of Terrain Permit Application AoT 260615-112
W157 transmission Line Structure Replacement Project
Milford, Amherst, and Merrimack, existing ROW

Dear Applicant:

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) is in receipt of an application and supporting plans and information, for an Alteration of Terrain Permit for the above referenced project. After review of the information submitted, the following items need to be addressed in order for DES to make a **final determination** on the application for a permit:

1. **Waiver** - The request to waive Env-Wq 1503.21(b)(4,5,6) has been denied. I believe the intended request was for a waiver of Env-Wq 1503.22(c) (6) though (8). Please confirm. If so, the approval will be included in your permit along with the two other waiver requests.
2. **Designated River** - The Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC) provided comments in a letter dated July 14, 2026 (received by email on July 15, 2026). Please provide SoRLAC with a written response to their comments. We encourage you to address any issues in your project that will make it more successful for Eversource, the environment, and the community. Please include these communications with your resubmittal.

New Business:

Village Landing Project (Merrimack): project had two permits 1) AOT and 2) Shoreland. AOT comment window closed on Aug 11; Shoreland Permit due Aug 24. Cory indicated we missed the Aug 11 deadline but had time to comment on Aug 24 shoreland permit. Group discussed the continuing challenge with the on-going development in the area. Comments the committee made:

- The area is a flood plain area adjacent to the river. Stabilizing the bank will be difficult due to predominantly sand. Ground cover along the high bank. Upgrade the soil steep bank (likely glacial sand, sand dune sand).
- George indicated the historical society is commenting on this because the houses are from 1700's
- Andrew Duane was not present for the meeting but had sent in his comments ahead of the meeting. Cory read Andrew's email into the record"

"Although I will not be at the meeting tonight, I would like to comment on the Village Landing Merrimack paperwork. According to the town planning board, this proposal is tabled pending some significant problems with truck and emergency vehicle access (it's a very small tight road), and pedestrian safe access. It's not clear there's a path forward on those.

Also, I did some bushwhacking looking at the possibility of a trail connecting Twin Bridges and Watson parks via this development. There is no feasible way to get across the development property between there and Twin Falls, as there is only 10 or 15 feet of backyard then a steep drop to Baboosic Brook. There would be an easy path from the proposed development to Watson, and the MCC is going to comment on that if this moves forward"

- The committee recommended Cory summarize discussion and send comments to DES.

Corridor Management Plan

- In response to continued contamination SoRLAC progressed the Section 604(b) Water Quality Planning Grant and Section 319 Watershed Assistance Grant Announcement
- To support this work, Cory introduced Nick Principato from Nashua Regional Planning Commission. Nick was taking over where Emma left off.
- Draft document [Beaver Brook Souhegan River Location Microbial Source Sampling Plan2.docx](#) was available The committee discussed: testing plans, hiring the engineering firm, the ongoing issues with Beaver Brook, concerns SoRLAC was doing 'town work', and other various aspects of completing the application.
- The committee identified various action items in order to complete the application:
 - Beaver Brook Data - Eric
 - Reach out to Merrimack Watershed Council - Nick
 - Mont Vernon update, request letter of support - Eric
 - Finalize Draft Application - Nick, Cory, Eric, Rob by Aug 28
 - Speak with Jeff Marcoux (DES) about developing a full watershed-based plan. - Nick
 - Submit draft no later than Aug 31 to Tracie and Jeff

- Other source funding letter of support - Eric
- Mapping - Eric
- Group ended discussion with a roadmap of actions for developing the application. The subcommittee was planning on following up.

SWA - discussion

- From Cory's agenda: "Follow-up discussion on the potential creation of an SWA subcommittee, as raised at the previous meeting. Tracie indicated no concerns with the concept. To better understand how a subcommittee model might function within an LAC, outreach has been made to Suzanne Petersen (Lamprey River LAC) to better understand how their Wild & Scenic subcommittee operates. Discussion to include potential structure, responsibilities, and whether creation of a subcommittee works for SoRLAC, particularly if SoRLAC were to establish a treasurer position and manage funding-related activities."
- The committee did not reach any conclusions.

Outreach:

- Marshall announced the stream clean up in Greenville on September 3rd 10:00am. - Greenville Conservation Parking at the Chamberlin Mill. People will need to dress appropriately. Waiver of liability form.

Local updates:

- Souhegan Watershed Association
- New Ipswich - no updates
- Greenville: Marshall noted that the **Pilgrim Foods** civil administrative order remains in effect. The EPA is pursuing a separate action that includes a 30-day public comment period on the proposed consent decree. Marshall is working to determine when the public comment period officially began and believes it may already be underway. Marshall discussed feedback related to the consent decree, including the proposed capping activities of the pipe and removal of the three-way valve. Marshall noted that the same judge handling the criminal case is expected to oversee matters related to the consent decree. Other business. Drug rehab no updates
- Temple
- Wilton
- Milford
- Amherst
- Lyndeborough
- Merrimack
- RMAC & NH DES