



WANTASTIQUET REGION RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE Minutes -October 21, 2009

PRESENT: Gordon Schofield, Hinsdale; Mary Lou Montgomery, Walpole; Dan Marx, Dummerston; George Watkins, Bill Roberts, Bev Major, and Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: representatives of Westmoreland; Chesterfield; Westminster; Putney, Brattleboro, Vernon

GUESTS: Serena Benedict, Hinsdale Conservation Commission

1. Housekeeping - Welcomed new Walpole representative Mary Lou Montgomery. Minutes of the meeting of May 27 were approved on a motion by Bill, seconded by Dan. Staff changes at CRJC - Brenda Ash, new Business & Office Manager. Water Resources Plan is being published in color by Prospect Communications in Chesterfield with ARRA funds. Connecticut River Atlas now available: 30% discount extended to Subcommittee members. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has accepted the Subcommittee's Connecticut River Recreation Management and Water Resources Plans as comprehensive plans for the river and will consult them when Bellows Falls and Vernon Dams come up for relicensing. .
2. Plan presentations: Next one is scheduled for Brattleboro Nov. 18. Bev reported that there will be a conflict with a VT gubernatorial debate in Bellows Falls. Adair will find a new date. After the presentation, she invited subcommittee members and commissioners to consider giving the presentation on the plan to groups of local officials and landowners in their own towns. CRJC will provide the equipment (with detailed instructions) and the presentation, which is constructed to be easy to deliver.
3. Permit issues - New procedure for communicating with NH DES about NH permit applications - CRJC will be kept more closely informed of applications involving more DES programs. Proposed NH rule changes for stream crossings and upcoming public meetings- new rules focus on designing culverts and bridges for better fish passage, stream stability, and passage of stormwater, as also recommended by the Subcommittee's plan.
4. Tri-State Connecticut River Targeted Watershed Initiative project - 2009 water quality findings showed only 1 bacteria violation all summer, in stark contrast to Massachusetts, where violations were routine. Website is www.cesd.umass.edu/twi/index.html
5. Ebenezer Hinsdale Farm conservation & historic preservation project - Bill reported that the Historical Society now owns the property, and that Dr. Goodby of Franklin Pierce College has done some sample excavations near the supposed site of Fort Hinsdale. A flint from a flintlock, china shards, a pipe bowl dating to 1740 and a pipe stem dating from 1720 have been found. A larger group of archeological investigators will come soon. Serena added that the Hinsdale Planning Board has added this farm and another to the town's natural resources inventory.
6. Cheshire County Farm - As construction proceeds on the new jail in Keene, committees have been formed to look into possible new uses for the current jail and the county farm property. Members were invited to make a recommendation, and decided to wait until more information is available on the proposed options.
7. Announcements - Bill reported that Hinsdale has acquired a governor and propeller off the 1909 turbine that was replaced at Vernon Dam, and that the propeller showed hardly any wear. The town is looking for an appropriate place to display it.
8. The New Connecticut River Water Resources Management Plan for the Wantastiquet region- Public presentation by Adair to an audience of approximately 7, hosted by the Walpole School.