



RIVERBEND SUBCOMMITTEE Minutes -December 3, 2009

PRESENT: Rick Walling, Bath; PJ Blanchard, Monroe; Scott Labun, Jim Doig, Newbury; Jan Edick, Littleton; Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: Guildhall, Ryegate, Waterford, Lunenburg, Concord, Dalton, Barnet, Lancaster

1. Housekeeping: Minutes of the June 11 meeting were approved. Water Resources Plan has been published with conservation license plate funding through Vermont. Adair distributed copies to members and to bring to their planning boards/commissions and conservation commissions. CRJC is fund-raising to be able to provide copies to schools and all libraries, and to publish the Recreation Management Plan. A CD containing the Recreation and Water Resources plans, both the overviews and the Riverbend versions, and the powerpoint presentation, was given to each subcommittee member. Connecticut River Atlas now available: 30% discount extended to Subcommittee members. Staff changes at CRJC - Theresa Darling, new Business & Office Manager. 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 any FERC-licensed projects come up.
2. Governors' Tour of the North Country, October 7 - Councilor Ray Burton and CRJC hosted a tour for Governors Lynch and Douglas of both sides of the river valley from Lancaster to Colebrook on October 7, to highlight scenic aspects and tourism based on natural resources. Legislators from both states, some executive councilors, and media participated.
3. Ammonoosuc River project: Rick reported on CRJC's geomorphic assessment, floodplain conservation, riverbank restoration project on the Ammonoosuc River, in cooperation with Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust and North Country Council. Dr. Field has met with each town's selectboard, planning board, and conservation commission to explain his findings. Jan observed that the findings may not been well understood by those attending the Littleton meeting. Eight sites of river instability, largely associated with river straightening in the past, have been identified. Development pressures are highest at a site at Bretton Woods. Part of the Woodsville/Bath site is already conserved. Rick explained a project in Bath off 135 to protect the road, by building J-shaped piers to build the bank back out and slow the water near the bank. Jan said that the recent downtown Littleton paving project had been a big success. Members of the subcommittee expressed concern about the effects of development in the last 10 years on the general "livability" of the Littleton area.
4. Permit Issues - Permit by notification to remove a series of utility poles in Littleton, with temporary wetland impacts. Work will be done in winter, using helicopters to remove cut poles. Mats will be used in wetland crossings. At the North Haverhill campground, the owner decided not to apply for a wetland permit, to avoid dealing with archeological issues. Adair was asked to find out whether DES made an inspection.
5. Reports from the tributaries - volunteer Israel's River group has examined 51 culverts and bridges in this watershed for possible disruption of fish passage, and found 29% either blocked fish passage or were possible barriers. Information is up on the web. Ice dam in Lancaster is the most obvious barrier.
6. Presentation: No members of the public appeared for the presentation that was scheduled to begin at 7:30, so the meeting adjourned.

