



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

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Upper Valley Subcommittee Annual Report - 2016

The Upper Valley Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions consists of appointed volunteers from the Vermont towns of Hartford, Norwich, Thetford, Fairlee, and Bradford, and the New Hampshire towns of Lebanon, Hanover, Lyme, Orford, and Piermont. We meet every two months on average to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues. Meetings are usually held in Thetford.

The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a wide range of regulatory applications this year, including river shoreline stabilization, wetlands activity, and stormwater management at several private and public sites. Subcommittee members continued to bring a valuable contribution of expertise and local knowledge to the table for the assistance of landowners, municipalities and state agencies.

This year Subcommittee members volunteered a great deal of extra time to represent the interests of the River and its resources, as well as landowners and local municipalities, in the federal relicensing process for TransCanada's Wilder Dam hydroelectric facility. Study reports commissioned by the applicant were reviewed and comments submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding bank erosion and water quality. The CRJC Subcommittee joined with other advocates for municipalities and other property owners in requesting financial assistance from the dam owners for damage caused by erosion, since the operation of the dams is one of the contributors to the bank erosion problem.

The Subcommittee also reviewed New Hampshire's boat accesses and boat access maps for the N.H. Public Water Access Advisory Board. In addition, members assisted with an inventory of boat launch speed limit signs, which resulted in the production and installation of signs with New Hampshire speed limits at Vermont Fish & Wildlife and TransCanada launches (N.H. laws govern activities on the river.)

We will continue our coordination with other river conservation and planning organizations, such as the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the New Hampshire Rivers Council, the Connecticut River Paddlers, the White River Partnership, the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, and the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

For more information or to become involved in the work of the CRJC Upper Valley Subcommittee, please contact Chairman Jim Kennedy (james.kennedy@valley.net) or our Planning Coordinator Tara Bamford (tara.bamford@crjc.org).