



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

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Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee Annual Report - 2016

The Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions consists of two volunteers nominated by each of the following municipalities: Hartland, Windsor, Weathersfield, Springfield, and Rockingham in Vermont; and Plainfield, Cornish, Claremont and Charlestown in New Hampshire.

The Subcommittee meets approximately every two months to discuss and act on a variety of river-related issues. Specific responsibilities include providing advice to NHDES, VANR and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river; reviewing and commenting on proposed permits and plans; and developing and periodically updating a corridor management plan. As appropriate we work in coordination with other river conservation and planning organizations, such as the Connecticut River Watershed Council, the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

Subcommittee members 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 represented the interests of the River and its resources, as well as landowners and local municipalities, in the federal relicensing process for TransCanada's Bellows Falls hydroelectric facility. Comments were submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding bank erosion and the need for mitigation funds to assist property owners with damage caused by riverbank erosion.

Twenty people gathered for the Subcommittee's annual Septic Smart workshop which was held in Springfield this year. 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.)

There are currently openings on the Subcommittee in several communities. If you are interested in working with volunteers from area communities on river conservation issues, and serving as a liaison to your municipal boards, please contact our Planning Coordinator Tara Bamford (tara.bamford@crjc.org) for more information.