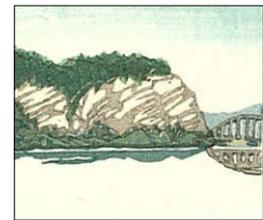


Upper Valley River Subcommittee

New Hampshire - Piermont, Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Lebanon
Vermont - Bradford, Fairlee, Thetford, Norwich, Hartford



Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2014

Members Present: Jim Kennedy, Lynn Bohi, Carl Schmidt, Joan Monroe, Linda Matteson, John Mudge, Melissa Horwitz, Sue Mackenzie

Minutes: Meeting minutes from June 2014 were approved (motion by Sue, second by Lynn).

Welcome to Chris Balch from Orford

Membership Recruitment: There doesn't seem to be any uniformity to how individuals are either appointed or otherwise selected; however, the June meeting minutes did include documents to be used to explain the role to prospective members and a nomination form. Not certain where the standard letter Rachel had used to assist with vacancy promotion has gone. We also need to promote the need for volunteers in the Valley News. A suggestion was made to engage potential recruits from the Conservation Commissions. Tasks: contact towns, contact the Valley News, and update the roster. Also, need to develop a formal procedure for recruitment. We need to compose a letter to confirm the membership of members that we have not been in contact with in recently months.

Roundtable:

- ❖ Sue → Potential application in Lyme at Hughes Brook → Per Sue, the engineering study found that the wing wall on the NE corner is ready to fall over. The SW corner wing wall has moved many inches, and is also about to fall over. Options are to patch the corrosion or replace the old concrete entirely. The water way is shallow and rocky-bottomed. A third option would be to replace the bridge entirely, which begs the questions: should it remain one lane or be enlarged and how should it be reconstructed? The Town will be paying for this bridgework on their own. Jim noted that an arched culvert could be use to replace the bridge, either plastic HDPE or corrugated metal (aluminized steel potentially). This is good for water flow and for fish, and must conform to the Stream Crossing Guidelines.
 - There is a further issue in an area where banks have been stabilized on both sides, and issues have been pushed downstream.
 - East Thetford Bridge in Lyme has been reduced to one lane traffic, and the date for replacement will possibly be pushed forward to address issues.
- ❖ Joan → Work needs to be done to address the I-89 bridge connecting West Lebanon to Hartford, but there are other areas that are in need of work as well. Andrew Gaspre (sp?) is departing after 3 years of service, and a replacement(s) is needed.
 - Joan, Nicole Corman, and Judy McNabb saw a patch of purple loosestrife on the NW corner of a local lake, and have been actively been removing growth for a number of years. The growth has

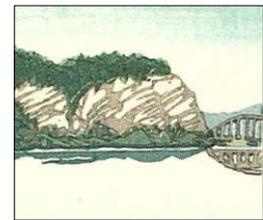


a local subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions

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been drastically reduced this season.

- ❖ Carl → Orford's Conservation Commission has completed efforts to introduce purple loosestrife-destroying beetles.
 - A NJ resident is looking to build a house near the river (Fisher Residence on Dartmouth College Driveway). Darlene is taking a firm stance in this case. Jim believes we have to give additional comments. Rachel sent comments in June on the wetlands permit application. Jim will speak with Darlene to see what the status is of the application.
- ❖ Jim → Hanover is working on Wilson's Landing to improve it for everyone's use, including bird watchers, picnickers, etc. It may require restoration work to improve the habitat, including a culvert. A gazebo and other amenities may be included in the project. Two public meetings have been held, and a management plan and ideas will be presented to the public along with costs.

Update from CRJC:

Permit Review:

- ❖ Lebanon, NH Shoreland Program Permit → 250 Bank Street Extension is a Mascoma River issue, and not under our purview.
- ❖ Lyme, NH Wetland Permit Application → Bridge over Grant Brook down River Road. Jim is not certain they are re-doing the abutments, nor does it appear that it is being widened. Salt corrosion/erosion has been occurring. Sue stated that a dam and rebar are needed, with new facing. Will narrow the channel by a foot on both sides. The bridge is located on a delta. 35" span, 16" wide. The application stated there were no recreational resources, but it can/is used for some recreational activities, including kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, fishing, etc. Jim feels this statement is misleading, and that the Subcommittee ought to state that it should be addressed. The application does not appear as though it will have much, if any, impact, but our comments should state that we would like to see some mention of the recreational activities the area provides.
- ❖ Hanover, NH Water Reclamation Facility NPDES permit → Discharge permit issue, public comment due September 21st. Jim believes it is a sewage discharge and not a fill discharge. Jim will be speaking to Jackie Coburn about this.
- ❖ Wilder Dam Relicensing → Per John, if you own land along the river, you may have received a letter asking for historical photos, surveys, and documentation, but no additional word since. John is currently collecting photographs and information. No one knows when the report will come out, and what the report is likely to say. John would like additional information to bolster the information he is gathering. NRCS may also have information, including mapped, scanned images of the river taken in 1992 (?) from the Connecticut River Erosion Inventory. Jim recalls this possibly being kept both up at NRCS and with each of the Towns. Joan also believes she has a collection of images captured in the wake of TS Irene.

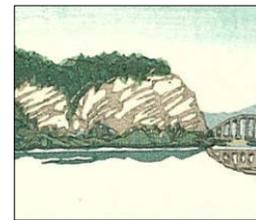


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Upcoming Events & Items

- ❖ Site visit to assess the effectiveness of riverbank restorations
 - Jim was looking to do this in Lyme, possibly Orford, and various other places whenever time and river conditions permit. The appropriate conditions have been somewhat fleeting. This may be a great opportunity to invite prospective members and volunteers.

The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2014, at 7 pm at the Thetford Library.



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