

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee  
Minutes  
July 26, 2012  
Littleton Community Center

Present:

Bill Graves, Barnet  
Donald Hallee, Lunenburg  
Stephanie Taylor, Newbury  
Rick Walling, Bath  
Jim Sherrard, Littleton  
Jim Doig, Newbury  
Bob Elwell, Lancaster  
Tara Bamford, North Country Council

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Chairman Rick Walling and introductions made.

1. Ben Copan, Watershed Coordinator for VANR Watershed Management Division, reported on the process for VANR's development of a plan for the Upper Connecticut River watershed. The process began with the statewide plan and identification of the 10 primary stressors statewide. The basins were redefined to be better tied to management areas, with the smaller Connecticut River tributaries included with larger ones nearby, rather than forming a separate disconnected management unit. The watershed plan is being developed in partnership with other organizations and then public input will be invited on the priority issues identified. Projects identified in basin plans will have priority for some funding programs. A draft working list of priority issues was discussed. Ben explained that phosphorous tends to be from erosion because it attached to soil, while nitrogen tends to be from farms. It was noted that N.H. owns the river and Vt. is better staffed, and that this may present opportunities for collaboration on studies of Connecticut River water quality. It was also noted that Vt. may again be working on a shoreline bill that CRJC may want to comment on. Another CRJC opportunity discussed - liaisons working with towns to strengthen zoning. Ben agreed to keep the Subcommittee informed through Rick and Tara, including upcoming meetings with other groups so that Riverbend can also be aware of the concerns of others.

2. Housekeeping-

The minutes of April 26, 2012 were approved as presented.

By motion of Doig/Elwell, Rick Walling was elected chair.

By motion of Graves/Doig, Stephanie Taylor was elected vice-chair.

CRJC members are going to assist with visits to towns that don't have active subcommittee members. Rick will work with Tara and Rachel to provide a list of towns in need of visits.

3. Permit Reviews

Ampersand Gilman Hydro LP, Gilman – A letter was sent after the last meeting noting no concerns.

Rick filled out a DES complaint form following the last meeting on a project in Bath on NH 135 that is within the protected shoreland but has no permit for the clearing that has taken place on the steep riverbank.

#### 4. Updates

CRJC is planning to publish the recreation plans and has asked for the Subcommittee to work on an update to go with it. Tara handed out the summary of recommendations (Appendix A) and "Progress since 1997" (Appendix B) and asked members to review them for updates. It was agreed that Appendix B should be larger font and bullets to be more user friendly.

Riverbend Subcommittee was invited to participate in CRWC's Fiddlehead Island cleanup. It was agreed that something like that would be good to do when the membership is built back up in the future, perhaps begin planning in April for a September event.

#### 5. Other business

Bob Elwell provided an update on the ice dam on the Israel River. Concerns had been expressed about it in the past and some thought it should be removed. Bob observed 4 sluices with quiet pools above and below, and it appeared aquatic life can move freely through.

#### 6. Future meeting dates

Next meetings were scheduled for October 18 and January 24. Ron Rhodes will be invited for October 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford, NCC