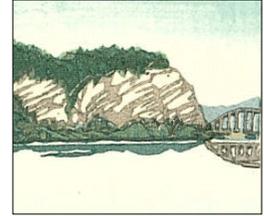


# Upper Valley River Subcommittee

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



Meeting Minutes—February 25, 2013

Members Present: Marc White, Jim Kennedy, Linda Matteson, Sue MacKenzie, Bill Bridge, John Mudge, Carl Schmidt, Steve Stocking and Rachel Ruppel, staff consultant

Approval of Nov. 19, 2012 minutes was moved Sue, with a second by John –motion passed unanimously.

Rachel reported that CRJC is focusing on the FERC dam relicensing right now by reviewing the reasons why the Connecticut River was designated as a Protected River in New Hampshire and how the relicensing might affect the river as a whole. CRJC is working to bring in more resources to support a specialist to represent CRJC's position in the relicensing process. She reported that CRJC is submitting a study request asking for a robust hydrologic model for the watershed, to better understand the quantity and timing of river flows and to predict effects on the river and dam operations due to climate change.

Hanover Dartmouth College Crew Dock: The Subcommittee reviewed the Shoreland and Wetlands permit applications, and identified the following concerns: (1) the drainage ditch area did not appear to be designed for filtering stormwater, and recommended that the ditch conform to state standards for stormwater treatment, and (2) the entry of the road into the river is not described in sufficient detail to understand.

Hanover Country Club: The Subcommittee reviewed the Wetlands permit application, and expressed concern about mowing the wetland, which would undermine the wetlands' function; they recommended establishing an out-of-bounds barrier around the remaining wetland, so that it may remain in a natural state post-construction. The Subcommittee also questioned how the wetlands alteration might affect stormwater storage capacity and whether drainage from Occum Pond would be able to be managed in the wetland post-alteration.

Orford private garage on Route 10: The Subcommittee reviewed a Shoreland permit application for a garage on a residential property. The garage would be located as far as possible from the river. The Subcommittee declined to comment on this application.

Lyme River Road rip-rap: The Subcommittee reviewed an after-the-fact wetlands permit application for emergency repairs to rip-rap along River Road. The Subcommittee noted a discrepancy in the plans between the cross-section and plan views with regard to property ownership relative to the project area. The Subcommittee expressed a concern that the repairs seemed to be temporary in nature and did not include any vegetation planted in the rip-rap nor toe protection at the base of the rip-rap. Sue noted that this is a recurring issue for the Town of Lyme; Steve noted that slow, careful inspection of roads, e.g. on a tractor, can identify problems before they lead to major damage. Sue agreed to share these comments with the



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Town of Lyme, rather than to write a comment letter for work that has already been completed.

Wilder Dam Relicensing: Jim reported that walleye and small-mouth bass are important warmwater fisheries and recommended a study request to improve their management; Rachel will follow-up with Fish and Game to see what study requests they are submitting. If needed, the Subcommittee can draft a study request. John shared the study request he had prepared relative to bank erosion. Sue shared that the Town of Lyme would also be submitting a study request regarding bank erosion. John suggested that the Valley News should receive a list of all study requests. The Subcommittee discussed flowage rights: whether flowage rights had been granted to 385 feet on all riverfront land, and that the language for flowage rights allowed damage to the land. It was noted that any erosion study should be done at low water.

The next meeting will be held on April 15, 2013 at the Thetford Library. A training workshop will be held on April 27, 2013 in Concord for all local river advisory committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Ruppel, staff consultant