Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee
June 20, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Cordie Merritt, Hartland; Gilbert Whittemore, Weathersfield
CRJC Staff: Victoria Davis, UVLSRPC
Others: John Broker-Campbell, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission;
Absent Members: Steve Halleran, Plainfield; Ted Moynihan, Plainfield; Michael Meeks, Cornish;
Judy Howland, Hartland; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; Kelly Stettner, Springfield ; Kurt Staudter,
Springfield; Thomas Hernon, Rockingham; and Margaret Perry, Rockingham.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm at the Martin Memorial Hall’s cool basement in
Ascutney, VT. Despite a lack of attendance, the meeting was very productive with some great
ideas for future projects.

No minutes were approved due to a lack of a quorum. It was suggested that commitments to
attend meetings be obtained prior to meetings to assure a quorum. The attendees discussed
more ways to obtain full membership such as contacting Student Conservation Association
employees. It was suggested that if we can get a meeting with a quorum, the Subcommittee
could develop about three concrete goals to elicit more membership interest.

Review of Strategic Plan: The final draft of the CRJC strategic plan was reviewed which had
also been e-mailed to all members. The attendees felt the plan had rather lofty goals since the
subcommittees have not gotten on their feet yet including full membership and good
attendance at meetings.

The attendees discussed a possible river boat tour for the public and especially riverfront
owners. It was suggested the group might partner with other organizations to provide funding
or other resources for an educational tour of the river: Montshire Museum, Vermont Institute
of Natural Science, Audubon, Winooski River, Wilgus State Park, Vermont Agency of Natural
Resources, Trout Unlimited, Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge, North Star Canoe, Vermont and New
Hampshire Fish and Wildlife Departments.

The attendees discussed that the mission statement is not specific to the Connecticut River. It
was suggested that the future goals could be more action-oriented to get more people to use
the river.

Cordie said that the Hartland Nature Club has inventoried plants at the 50 acre Sumner Falls.
The attendees discussed using this as an example for town projects and perhaps broadening it
to include birds and other wildlife to build interest in the river.

Review of By-Laws: The final draft of the CRJC by-laws was reviewed. The attendees felt the
quorum is still going to be difficult to achieve – representation of 50% of participating
municipalities.
Review of the CRJC Scope of Work with UVLSRPC: The attendees reviewed the scope of services which is for a fiscal year of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. This includes funding for grant writing services.

CRJC Publication Review: Vickie brought samples of CRJC publications. The attendees suggested that the buffer publications could be shared with State agencies to distribute. These documents are on-line at [www.CRJC.org](http://www.CRJC.org). (Note: The link to the Mt. Ascutney River Corridor Plan seems to be broken.)

Cordie shared her copy of “Living in Harmony with Streams” which she picked up at the Vermont rivers conference. Gil suggested it would be nice to have a list of helpful resources.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meetings will be at the Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney:
Wednesday, July 18th at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 15th at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted by
Victoria Davis, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, as CRJC staff