

## Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee July 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Kelly Stettner, Springfield; Judy Howland, Hartland; Gilbert Whittemore, Weathersfield; Thomas Herson, Rockingham; and Margaret Perry, Rockingham  
CRJC Staff: Victoria Davis, UVLSRPC

Others: John Broker-Campbell, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission;  
Bernie Folta, Claremont

Absent Members: Steve Halleran, Plainfield; Ted Moynihan, Plainfield; Michael Meeks, Cornish;  
Cordie Merritt, Hartland; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; and Kurt Staudter, Springfield.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Martin Memorial Hall's cool basement in Ascutney, VT.

**Review of Strategic Plan & By-Laws:** The Subcommittee determined that as the documents had been reviewed at the previous meeting, and as attendees at the current meeting had reviewed the material and had no comments, this agenda item was not necessary.

The Subcommittee discussed getting more members especially from municipalities with no representation. Vickie Davis reported that the CRJC President would consider having Commissioners visit towns to request participation on the five subcommittees including Mount Ascutney. The Subcommittee determined that letters should be sent to municipalities without full representation requesting nominations for membership on the subcommittee.

**Election of Officers:** Tom Herson made a motion to appoint Kelly Stettner as Subcommittee Chair. Margaret Perry seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed. Kelly Stettner made a motion to nominate Cordie Merritt as Vice-Chair. Tom Herson seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed. The appointment will be subject to Cordie's approval since she could not attend the meeting.

Kelly took over running the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Judy Howland made a motion to approve the minutes for the meetings of June 20, 2012; May 16, 2012; April 17, 2012; January 24, 2012; February 22, 2011, and June 20, 2012. Margaret Perry seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed.

**Non-Participating Subcommittee Members:** The Subcommittee determined to send letters to the non-participating subcommittee members to request that they attend the meetings or resign so a quorum would not be so difficult to achieve. They were also to be thanked for their past participation. Kelly and Vickie will send the letters.

**Set Primary Goals for Subcommittee:** At the previous meeting, it was suggested to establish primary goals for the Subcommittee. This would help the Subcommittee to focus on activities

and allow greater definition of the Subcommittee when describing the Subcommittee to municipalities and potential new members. After much discussion, the following goals were established:

1. *Act as Connecticut River Resource Clearinghouse and Outreach Tool:* Provide information on the website for matters related to the river such as water quality, recreational use, fishing, boat landings; provide contact information for other Connecticut River groups; provide calendar for upcoming events related to the river.
2. *Provide Municipal Outreach:* Keep riverfront municipalities informed about river issues; attend occasional Select Board meetings; take information to municipalities and bring concerns back to Subcommittee meetings; include municipal or regional organizations in outreach such as businesses including real estate brokers and marinas, chambers of commerce, and institutions such as schools and churches.
3. *Guide Responsible Develop on the River:* Review permits and other development information for comment by the Subcommittee; educate the communities about river related current issues.
4. *Provide Public Education:* Develop and distribute educational materials to State agencies and the public about best management practices for riverbank maintenance, erosion control, plantings, invasive plant removal, and other relevant topics. Support other agencies providing these services. Educate the public about State riverbank protection programs such as the NH Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Provide an annual education event such as a barge trip down the river with educational program and potentially combining efforts with the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. Update the Corridor Management Plan every five years.

The Subcommittee discussed educating themselves by having occasional guests to their meeting such as Marie Caduto, VT ANR Watershed Coordinator or David Deen, River Steward for the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Commissioner for CRJC.

Judy Howland described a model river flume owned by the Ottaquechee Natural Resources Conservation District. She said it cost about \$5,000 to construct and it requires a storage area, but it has been very popular teaching people about the way a river works. The WOW (Watershed on Wheels) trailers provided by the Silvio Conte Refuge and Vermont Institute of Natural Science were also mentioned as a potential educational tool.

**Permit Applications Review:** CRJC received a permit application from the Springfield Medical Care Systems, Inc. to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to discharge “non-contact cooling water” from their facility at 100 River Street into the Black River. The Subcommittee discussed the application and determined to submit a letter of support for the application with the following concerns noted: support of the Black River Action Team providing monitoring in addition to required State monitoring to provide more data on water temperature and pH; concern about the impact of the temperature increase upon the fish in the discharge area, and concern about the varied impacts if the facility expands and increases their discharge quantities

since the maximum daily allowance is substantially greater than the current anticipated monthly average.

**Upcoming Events:** Kelly reviewed the upcoming events, and the Subcommittee determined that individuals could participate in the Source to the Sea Cleanup, though the Subcommittee would not commit. BRAT is having its cleanup on the Black River on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to noon instead of the 29th. They will be meeting in Springfield and Ludlow, and possibly in Plymouth.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

**The next meetings will be at the Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney:**  
Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

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