

April 22, 2013

DRAFT Minutes

In Attendance

Members:	Richard Schmidt, Westmoreland Deborah Titus, Dummerston Stephen Skibniowsky, Vernon Dan Marx, Dummerston Michael Fairchild, Brattleboro Don Farquharson, Westmoreland Roland Vollbehr, Chesterfield Alice Maes, Putney Peter Barrett, Westminster
Commissioners:	Donna Drouin, Walpole Beverly Major, Westminster
Guests/Public:	Bruce Lawrence, Chief Operator, Brattleboro Waste Water Treatment Facility Marie L. Caduto, Vermont DEC
Staff:	Dinah Reed, Brattleboro

Meeting Summary

The Chair was not in attendance. The meeting was convened by Staff, Dinah Reed at approximately 6:30 p.m.

- Review of Minutes – The draft minutes of the February 14, 2013 meeting were accepted as amended.
- Bruce Lawrence visited the Committee to speak about the Brattleboro Waste Water Treatment Facility and answer questions of the Committee. Details pointed out:
 - Brattleboro has 3,400 wastewater accounts (houses) that discharge to the CT River.
 - The Waste Water Facility reviews Brattleboro discharge permits to ensure pollutants going into the river meet standards.
 - Waters in the state are classified at A, B or C waters.
 - The goal of the Waste Water Facility is to produce “Class A” sludge, which is sold as fertilizer.
 - Annually, a grab sample of sludge is tested.
 - Chlorine is added to effluent put into the river to kill off any pathogens.
- Question was asked about Committee’s task of reviewing permits. Bruce suggested if when reviewing a permit, you question the environmental impact as being negative, to begin by calling Steve Barrett at Brattleboro Public Works and ask him what he thinks.
- **Bruce offered a tour of the Waste Water Treatment Facility if we want one.**
- Future educational topics to bring to the Committee:
 - Water Quality Monitoring
 - NH Shoreland Protection Act
 - Milfoil, and other invasive species in our rivers and streams

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- Committee discussed the Recreation Plan section for the Wantastiquet LRS, what needs to be added.
 - Look into Green Mountain RR. They used to run a lucrative train operation. Discussed revitalizing that operation for tourists. It was mentioned that approximately 40,000 people would use the train per season to ride from N. Walpole to Chester (during leaf peeper season). Potential tourism economy for future now that the Connecticut has status of Blue Highway.
 - Need to talk to a bird expert about adding a bird watching section to plan. Suggested I talk to Chris Petrak, or Putney Mountain Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association.
 - Mention of IBA (Important Bird Area) Program – Herrick’s Cove, CT from MA to Wethersfield, VT
 - Mention of contacting West Hill Bike Shop in Putney to get input

- The Committee briefly discussed the work plan for calendar year 2013. They feel we should expend as much effort as possible on the Source 2 Sea event and in doing so, give the Wantastiquet LRS as much exposure as we can that day. Therefore, the agenda item for next meeting – discussion of Source 2 Sea event: logistics, recruitment of volunteers, marketing, etc.

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.