



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

**2nd Floor Meeting Room
Windsor Municipal Building**

Draft Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Nancy Heatley, Chair.
2. The minutes of January 10, 2017 were adopted as presented by motion of Manner/O'Neill. Tara reported the following as follow-up to one item in the minutes: for town plans adopted before July 1, 2015, they expire in 5 years, but those adopted after that date will be good for 8 years.
3. Permit Reviews – The only item received was a notice about a new MS-4 permit. Tara reported that these are for small stormwater systems in urbanized areas and does not affect any municipalities on the Connecticut River.
4. Plans were begun for the annual Septic Smart workshop. Dates under consideration were Sept. 16 or 23 to coincide with Vermont's septic week. It was agreed that Saturday mornings are best and that 9:30-12 will be the right amount of time based on past experience. Nancy noted that she would be away on the 16th (here the 23rd) but would be happy to help someone else prepare to lead it that day. Locations in Claremont were discussed including the vo-tech school and the Claremont Community Center-Claremont Savings Bank. Colleen offered to contact a reporter at the Eagle Times to do a story. It was agreed that coffee and donuts should be available again with donations accepted. It was also agreed that outreach to real estate people should start sooner this time. Nancy will look for the task list from last year. Tara will reach out to Claremont's planner about meeting spaces and to DES about speakers.
5. Tara reported that partnering with Conte on outreach and education at the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival on May 7 is a go. Conte will have the Watershed on Wheels exhibit and will need one or two volunteers to help staff it. Nancy, Margaret, Bill, Matt and Judy all agreed to sign up if they don't already have a conflict. Tara will email the group to see who else can volunteer. The event itself is 10-4 and in the past has been by \$2 donation. About 2,000 people have attended.
6. Nancy reported that she has participated in meetings regarding the FERC relicensing for the TransCanada dams, including a stakeholder meeting to discuss recreation and discussions on the study reports. She noted that thanks to the town meeting articles and efforts that have been made by CRJC, CRWC and others, negotiations are beginning regarding permit conditions and mitigation. They are still working through the studies and CRWC is having peer review done. In the end it will not be possible to assign a responsibility for a specific amount of the erosion. There is precedent for a mitigation fund for the upper Connecticut. Decisions would be needed on how to allocate a fund if created and who decides what gets funded. In the event it is decided to instead include specific projects as mitigation, the stakeholders group is encouraging towns to identify their projects, e.g., recreation or repairs. It is not clear if towns will be represented in the negotiations. Rockingham's two \$5 million bridges in need of replacement were discussed as an example of something the town might want to suggest. There was consensus that both

towns and private landowners affected by the dams need to be included in a mitigation fund, not just the nonprofits leading the discussions. Members agreed that a list is a good idea, but felt that an amount per year for future impacts is also important. An upcoming opportunity for input will be the two 401 water quality permits. It was agreed that everyone should reach out to their towns and submit projects for the list to both Nancy and to their regional planning commission. Nancy will compile a list and send it to CRJC, the RPCs and the CRWC stakeholder group. She gave several examples: bank stabilization, trails, accesses, and new or improved recreation facilities. Cleaning up the debris on Chase Island was mentioned as something that should go on the list. The erosion maps in the relicensing study were suggested as a source of information on needed bank stabilization projects. Two weeks was set as the target for getting this information in.

7. Work on the update of Water Resources Plan was tabled due to lack of time. Nancy reported that she has been going through the whole document noting what needs to be updated. Google Docs was suggested as a tool that could be used to work collaboratively.

8. Updates-

a. Town Meetings – The warrant article asking for a mitigation fund was adopted by voters in Lyme, Charlestown, Orford, Cornish, Plainfield, Rockingham, Weathersfield, Windsor and Hartland. Hanover will vote in May.

b. SWCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee – Nancy reminded the group that the project list is being developed for the Basin 10 plan.

c. The notice for the upcoming TransCanada Study Report meeting on March 30 was provided.

9. In other business Colleen announced that the Cornish General Store reopened March 17.

10. The schedule for the rest of the 2017 meetings was confirmed as May 9, July 11, September 12, and November 14. Matt will confirm a location for May 9.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Minutes respectfully provided by Tara Bamford.