

Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee January 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Bill Manner, Springfield; Gil Whittemore & Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield; Judy Howland & Cordie Merritt, Hartland; and John Bruno, Charlestown.

CRJC Staff: Victoria Davis, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

Other: John Broker-Campbell, SWCRPC; Kathleen Carriere, Windsor, VT

Subcommittee Members Absent: Elise Angelillo, Plainfield; Doreé Russell, Claremont; Kelly Stettner, Springfield; Tom Herson & Margaret Perry, Rockingham.

Cordie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission offices in Ascutney, VT. Kelly was ill. There was a quorum of four towns out of seven participating municipalities.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** John Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2013 meeting. Bill Manner seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed.
- 2. Permit Application/Proposed Work Review:** The Subcommittee discussed the existing “Guidelines for the Local River Subcommittee Permit Review Process.” Members will review “A. Formulation of Comments” and determine what items they feel they need from the permits to make comments. As discussed at an earlier meeting, the Subcommittee does not want the entire permit as it could be very bulky, but they may need more specific information than is provided to them by both States such as a map or a clearer statement if it is a new or amended permit application. Vickie will review the remainder of the guidelines to insure it meets the right-to-know laws and provides for a member phone-in during a meeting.
- 3. Dam Permitting Meetings Update:** John Bruno stated there is not much new as Trans-Canada is proceeding with studies from their approval. He did add that the closure of Vermont Yankee nuclear plant will affect their plans.
- 4. NH Shoreland Protection Act Summary:** John Bruno provided a brief summary of the NH law restricting use and development in a 250’ zone from the reference line (edge of embankment) of all 4th order streams and water bodies of 10 acres or more in New Hampshire. There are three zones within the 250’ allowing more stringent restrictions closest to the water. Information about the Shoreland Program can be found at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/> A discussion about New Hampshire being more protective of waterfront than Vermont followed.
- 5. Next Chapter to Update:** The members went through the list of the *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan: Volume V Mt. Ascutney Region*. Vickie reported that Kelly wondered if the Water Resources chapter should be updated next due to Hurricane Irene. The members tentatively selected the Future Land Use chapter as they felt this could more appropriately deal with flood zones which were heavily impacted by Tropical Storm Irene. They also felt upcoming

results from TransCanada would be helpful when updating the Water Quality chapter as well as some of the other chapters.

6. **Riparian Buffer Brochure for Landowners:** Nancy discussed the brochure and will send out a new draft for member review. She is trying to get “good” and “bad” photos to illustrate why a buffer is important.
7. **TransCanada Boat Washing Station at Hoyt’s Landing:** Since Kelly was not available, this item was tabled until the next meeting.
8. **2008/2013 Recreation Plan Update Discussion:** Vickie handed out most of the 44 hard copy plans. Members took personal copies as well as copies for their libraries, planning boards, conservation commissions, recreation departments, and any other interested parties.
9. **Future Events:** Judy reported that the Ottaquechee Natural Resources Conservation District is hosting a talk by Dick Mason about logging and log drives on Saturday from 4:00 – 6: 00 PM at Damon Hall in Hartland, VT.
10. **Other Business:** Kathleen Carriere joined the meeting to express concern about the use of the Windsor Waypoint Center. She felt it was not open often enough. Vickie responded that the Subcommittee did not control any of the waypoint centers, but she would bring it up to a CRJC staff person to see how this could be addressed. (Note: It was later determined that the State of Vermont is responsible for the Windsor Waypoint Center.) Kathleen expressed an interest in participating with the Subcommittee. Vickie will send an inquiry to the Town of Windsor.

A discussion of membership was held and it was suggested to contact Colleen O’Neill in Cornish and Nancy Walker in Plainfield.

There was discussion about future educational events. The Subcommittee will talk with Kelly about shared invasive species workshops with the Black River Action Team. They’ll also consider another septic system maintenance workshop inviting the County Real Estate Boards which might use the workshop for professional development.

Next meetings: April 16, July 16, and October 15, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Southern Windsor County RPC unless you are notified otherwise.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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