

Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee August 15, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Kelly Stettner, Chair, Springfield; Cordie Merritt, Vice-Chair, Hartland; Judy Howland, Hartland; Gilbert Whittemore, Weathersfield; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; and Kurt Staudter, Springfield

CRJC Staff: Victoria Davis, UVLSRPC

Others: John Broker-Campbell, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission; Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield; Mark Blanchard, Springfield Medical Care Center

Absent Members: Ted Moynihan, Plainfield; Michael Meeks, Cornish; Thomas Hernon, Rockingham; Margaret Perry, Rockingham

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

Approval of Minutes: Gil Whittemore made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2012 meeting. Barbara Rhoad seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed.

Nonparticipating Subcommittee Members: Letters had been sent out to three non-attending members to request that they attend meetings or resign. Nonattendance has caused problems achieving a quorum to do business. Steve Halloran from Plainfield submitted his resignation. Ted Moynihan said he'd be glad to be an alternate if we found participating members from Plainfield.

Nancy Heatley from Weathersfield had joined the Subcommittee for the meeting and said she would like to be a member. The group was very grateful for her interest, and a nomination form will be sent to the Town of Weathersfield for Nancy.

Vickie Davis reported that Elise Angelillo from Plainfield would like to join the Subcommittee, and a nomination would be requested from the town. Barbara Rhoad suggested contacting John and Linda Hammond at North Star Canoe in Cornish to see if they would be interested in joining the Subcommittee. Vickie said she will contact them. She also reported that CRJC Commissioners will be contacting Selectboards to try to garner greater membership.

John Broker-Campbell volunteered to meet with the Conservation Commissions in Charlestown and Claremont to encourage them to locate members for the Subcommittee.

Springfield Medical Care Center Update: Mark Blanchard was kind enough to join us to discuss the permit application for the non-contact cooling system for the Medical Care Center. He reviewed the application pointing out that the quantities are substantially higher than they anticipate for intake and discharge. The water will be used by the Medical Care Center only and none of the other entities within the building complex. The Center is 32,000 square feet and

the remaining area is 160,000 square feet. The Subcommittee had already sent in a letter of support with concerns to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Permit Applications Review: The Subcommittee reviewed a Jurisdictional Opinion from the Vermont Natural Resources Board in regards to the Hammond's Cove Shooting Range Improvements in Hartland on State property. It was determined that the proposal is exempt from Act 250. There was discussion that the gun range had been there since the 1960's, and the proposed changes such as the berms and posting of range rules would all be considered an improvement. It was noted that Town of Plainfield Subcommittee member Ted Moynihan had indicated that the Town of Plainfield had concerns about the noise from the site. Cordie Merritt made a motion to send a request for a copy of the environmental stewardship plan and a sketch of the proposed improvements. Barbara Rhoad seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed.

2008 Recreation Plan Update: Rachel Ruppel, CRJC Program Manager had requested that the Subcommittee update their Recreation Plan. Two volunteers were requested to review the document and bring potential changes back to the Subcommittee for review at the next meeting. Kelly Stettner said she'd already reviewed half the document so she would finish. Vickie Davis said she would ask Elise Angelillo to assist to provide some New Hampshire input. Nancy Heatley volunteered to help with formatting the document.

Upcoming Events: Kelly Stettner brought materials to distribute on removal of Japanese Knotweed as well as other invasives. Vickie Davis passed around information on a Swallow CORE project to locate colonies of swallows that seem to be disappearing. Information can be found at www.nhauudubon.org/swallow-core. Kelly Stettner mentioned the Connecticut River Paddle Battle event coming up on September 23 (www.ctrpaddlebattle.com)

Future Events/Plan: Kurt Staudter said private dam companies have been allowed to stop maintaining the public areas which had been part of their permit requirements. He also stated they are not paying taxes.

Next Meeting: The Subcommittee decided to meet again in October or November after John has met with the Claremont and Charlestown Conservation Commissions to try to get representation from those municipalities. This will also be about the time the dam re-permitting process should begin.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The next meeting is hoped to be held in Charlestown in October or November:
Date and location to be determined.

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