

Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee May 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Bill Manner, Springfield; Gil Whittemore, Weathersfield; Cordie Merritt, Hartland; Judy Howland, Hartland; Dorée Russell, Claremont; Tom Hernon, Rockingham; Kelly Stettner, Springfield; Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield; Margaret Perry, Rockingham; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; John Bruno, Charlestown.

CRJC Staff: None

Others: John Broker-Campbell, SWCRPC

Subcommittee Members Absent: Ted Moynihan, Plainfield; Michael Meeks, Cornish; Kurt Staudter, Springfield.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission in Ascutney, VT by Chair Kelly S. With seven of the eight participating communities represented, there was a quorum.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** Gil W. made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Judy H. seconded; passed unanimously.
- 2. Permit Application/Proposed Work Review:** Gil W. stated the application seemed straightforward, the group agreed there was not much to discuss. It was noted that it was helpful to receive the application with plenty of time for review.
- 3. Dam Permitting Meetings:** New subcommittee member John B. provided an overview of the TransCanada relicensing meeting held on 5/13. TransCanada provided a review of all the proposed project study requests, the project requests total between \$4.5 and \$5.5 million. The next step is to build consensus on the study plans which have been broken down into sub-groups (habitat, erosion, etc.) by July 14th. Following consensus, a final draft report of projects will be developed and submitted no later than September 12, 2013.

There is currently a lack of baseline study information; therefore TransCanada will utilize these studies as a building block for future proceedings.

- 4. Septic System Workshop:** The workshop was well attended; it was good to have Vermont knowledge by the presenters. CCTV in Claremont has been running the program, a suggestion was made to have Ludlow Public Access and SAPA (Springfield) run the program as well. Doree R. provided contact information for CCTV: Keith Durhl, 603/542-1755.
- 5. Herrick's Cove Festival Update:** Kelly S. provided an update on the Herrick's Cove Festival held recently where over 2,000 people were in attendance. A brief discussion followed on suggestions to improve the festival for next year, Kelly S. will follow up with the festival organizers.

- 6. River Subcommittee Chair Conference Call:** Kelly S. provided a brief overview of the Local River Subcommittee chairs conference call and mentioned Rachel R. (UVLSRPC) has notes from the meeting. All other groups also struggle with membership, meeting attendance, and receiving permits with time for discussion. A small discussion followed on the advisory role of CRJC and the subcommittees and how it will take time to build back CRJC credibility. Also mentioned was developing goals and projects as a mechanism to bring people in.
- 7. 2008 Recreation Plan Update:** Nancy H. discussed the updated plan with comments from Vickie D. and Kelly S., any additional comments need to be received by the end of May. Most of the document was simply an update and refresher of the old plan, one significant change was the inclusion of a 'Next Steps' section. Nancy H. asked subcommittee members to review and identify priorities for the Mt Ascutney subcommittee and partner organizations prior to the July meeting.

John B. asked if TransCanada is reaching out to utilize the CRJC plans in the relicensing process, no answer was available.

8. Other Business:

Hoyt's Landing Boat Wash: Kelly S. will contact TransCanada to see if they are interested in partnering to install a boat washing station at Hoyt's Landing in Springfield.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 17th, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.