

## Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee April 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

*Subcommittee Members Present:* Kelly Stettner & Bill Manner, Springfield; Judy Howland & Cordie Merritt, Hartland; Doreé Russell, Claremont; Colleen McNeill, Cornish; Tom Herson & Margaret Perry, Rockingham; and John Bruno, Charlestown.

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

*Subcommittee Members Absent:* Elise Angelillo, Plainfield; Gil Whittemore & Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield

Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Weathersfield Town offices in Ascutney, VT. Gil e-mailed that he was home ill. There was a quorum of six towns out of eight participating municipalities.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** Cordie made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2014 meeting. Doreé abstained as she had not attended the previous meeting. Bill Manner seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed.
- 2. New Member from Cornish, NH:** Colleen O’Neill from Cornish was welcomed by the Subcommittee. This bumps up the participating towns from seven to eight.
- 3. Permit Applications Review:** There were no permit applications to review. Permit applications received since the last meeting had been distributed to members and no review comments were received by Vickie. The Subcommittee discussed the “Guidelines for the Local River Subcommittee Permit Review Process.” There was discussion that most of the permit applications they receive already have stringent review under State and Federal regulations such as Vermont’s Act 250 and New Hampshire Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. The members discussed that they may be more helpful reviewing local applications at the municipal level. Colleen pointed out that some towns such as Hartland have no zoning so no applications would be required. Vickie pointed out that as representatives of their municipalities that the Subcommittee members could be the ones bringing application and project information to the Subcommittee. Also that the members might approach their communities to discuss this possibility to see how receptive their municipalities would be to further review and suggestions by the Subcommittee. Kelly felt the individual members should be creating relationships with their communities. Judy suggested providing Subcommittee updates to local boards. Cordie said, as a member of her town’s Conservation Commission, she provides brief updates of Subcommittee activity at their meetings. The Subcommittee decided the Guidelines were fine the way they are with the exception of a review by a CRJC position that does not seem to exist. Pat Crocker will be addressing this issue.

Local permit applications/projects will be a regular agenda item. It was discussed that only proposed projects that will impact the river will be brought to the Subcommittee.

- 4. Dam Permitting Meetings Update:** No update.

5. **Next Chapter to Update for River Management Plan:** The members unanimously agreed that the next chapter should be “Future Land Uses.” They will begin review of the chapter for the next meeting. The existing chapter is on-line at [www.CRJC.org](http://www.CRJC.org).
6. **Riparian Buffer Brochure for Landowners:** Nancy was not present to provide an update.
7. **Hoyt’s Landing Update:** There was no update on a potential boat washing station. Kelly brought in the fishing line receptacle prototype to be installed at Hoyt’s Landing. A local hardware store helped in providing the plastic pipe and constructed the swinging door over the receptacle opening. Instructional stickers were placed on the receptacle, and Kelly will cover them with a clear coating. A second receptacle will be installed at Herrick’s Cove boat landing. Kelly explained that she anticipates vandalism and will be prepared to rectify damage without publishing it as she feels the vandalism will increase with public notice. There are illicit drug use and transactions at the boat launches, and Tom cautioned that syringes may be put into the receptacle. The bottom of the receptacle is designed to open for extraction of fishing line by a tool into a plastic bag. Kelly emphasized the importance of volunteers emptying the receptacles every week to keep the receptacle clear for further use and to check on the condition of the receptacle. She has established a volunteer network to empty the container every week. She will then take the materials from the volunteers, sort materials, and send off the monofilament and lead sinkers for recycling or proper disposal.
8. **Future Events/Plans:** The members discussed the possibility of having the septic system maintenance workshop again. Another suggestion was to provide a workshop on stormwater retention including rain gardens and rain barrels. Kelly will contact Marie Caduto at the State of VT to see if there are existing rain gardens in the region where a public site visit could be held. Other Subcommittee members should be thinking of other activities and topics for a potential stormwater workshop.
9. **Membership:** A letter will be sent to members who have not attended several meetings.

**Next meetings:** 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 8:35 pm.

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