

Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee July 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Kelly Stettner & Bill Manners, Springfield; Gil Whitemore & Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield; Cordie Merritt & Judy Howland, Hartland; John Bruno, Charlestown; and Dorée Russell, Claremont.

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

Others: John Broker-Campbell, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission

Subcommittee Members Absent: Elise Angelillo & Ted Moynihan, Plainfield; Michael Meeks, Cornish; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; Kurt Staudter, Springfield; Tom Herson & Margaret Perry, Rockingham.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission in Ascutney, VT. Since five of the nine participating communities were represented, there was a quorum.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** Cordie made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2013 meeting. Judy seconded the motion, and there was unanimous agreement by the remainder of members in favor of the motion.
- 2. Permit Application/Proposed Work Review:** On the morning of the meeting, an application was received by e-mail at the UVLSRPC from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Subcommittee members reviewed the application from the North Hartland Dry Kilns to install a new scale. Since the proposal is commercial and on more than an acre, it must be reviewed under Act 250. An erosion control plan is required due to the increase impermeable surface by the proposed concrete pad. The proposal is on the opposite side of Route 5 from the river. The Subcommittee determined that they do not have any concerns that are not already being addressed. John Bruno made a motion to submit a letter to Vermont ANR thanking them for including us in the review and that the Subcommittee does not have any concerns about the proposal. Gil seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed.
- 3. Dam Permitting Meetings Update:** John Broker-Campbell stated there were no new issues from the public meetings. John Bruno is on the CRJC “Dam Permitting Working Committee.” He reported that the TransCanada hydrologic model does not include climate change, and the erosion models do not reflect fluctuation of water levels. The Committee is requesting that these concerns be addressed. The proposed study area is 200’ from the top of the bank. The Committee is requesting that the study area include the 500-year flood area. It is also requested that the study include the impact of mercury contaminants from impoundments entering the river due to river level fluctuations. They will also be requested to reference the Connecticut River Master Plan in their study.

Comments are due by mid-August and then there will be another round of comments due in early fall.

4. **2008 Recreation Plan Update:** Vickie reported that the Recreation Plan is being proof-read and the various recreation plans will be formatted to be similar in appearance. The plans should be ready at the next meeting of the Subcommittee in September.
5. **Real Estate Broker Information for New Homeowners:** Nancy Heatley reported that she has been in contact with a local real estate broker to see if there is any interest in providing information about septic system maintenance, riparian buffers, native plants...to their homeowners. The broker was very interested in anything the Subcommittee could provide her. Nancy suggested doing a “pilot” project with a few brokers to see how it would work. There was discussion about coming up with a resource list with links to various relevant informational sites or pdfs. The brokers can use this on their web site or provide it in their newsletters. Nancy volunteered to be the contact person for this project. John Bruno pointed out that the state offices have a number of useful fact sheets. There is also valuable information on the CRJC web site. The brokers in the entire watershed should be included in this project.
6. **Boat Washing Station at Hoyt’s Landing:** Kelly reported that she had e-mailed TransCanada and received a positive response to her request for assistance in installing a washing station. They said they are not close to providing funding, but she should gather information about permitting, costs, and any other relevant information. Kelly asked that people brainstorm ways to include other volunteers and organizations so maintaining and attending the station do not become a one-person job. She said there is a Vermont volunteer greeter program that might help with the site.
7. **Other Business:** Kelly reported that she had done a training at Billings Farm about invasive plants for identification and mapping (“invasives”). Nancy suggested we might consider an “Invasives Day” similar to “Green-Up Day.” There was discussion about having people sign up for an invasives pulling day at the annual Herrick’s Cove Wildlife Event, and educating volunteers about identification—possibly flag the invasives in the fall prior to the event. Kelly gave out the CRJC buffer brochure and plant list at various events and took example of invasives for people to see. Nancy described an event with 4th and 5th graders visiting various educational stations. The Committee discussed doing something at an existing event such as the Cornish Fair.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18, 2013. The Subcommittee will discuss what “chapter” of the River Corridor Management Plan should be updated next.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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

Tentative Agenda for September 18, 2013

Decide which “chapter” should be updated next:
FERC meetings update
Grants and Partnerships