

## Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee September 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

*Subcommittee Members Present:* Kelly Stettner & Bill Manners, Springfield; Gil Whittemore & Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield; 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; and Ric St. Pierre, Bomar Incorporated in Charlestown

*Subcommittee Members Absent:* Cordie Merritt, Hartland; John Bruno, Charlestown; Elise Angelillo & Ted Moynihan, Plainfield; Michael Meeks, Cornish; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; Kurt Staudter, Springfield; Tom Hernon & 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 only four of the nine participating communities were represented, there was not a quorum.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the July 17, 2013 meeting were not reviewed due to a lack of a quorum.
- 2. Permit Application/Proposed Work Review:** Ric St. Pierre, General Manager of Bomar discussed the permit application for Bomar for an amendment to their industrial wastewater discharge. The facility is on South West Street and they manufacture products for the marine industry. The wastewater is from an anodizing process. The Subcommittee members did not have any objections to the project and will send a letter to NH Department of Environmental Services to express this.

The members reviewed the Vermont Agency of Transportation public notice for treated stormwater to be received by Mill Brook from I-91 bridge improvements. There were no objections although Kelly commented that she did not like to see riprap as a remedy since it is really a short-term remedy that gets washed out during flooding.

The Subcommittee discussed their role in reviewing permit application. Vickie stated she had discussed this with Rachel Ruppel and although they should review each application, the major concerns of the subcommittee should be for new projects, projects with past violations, or projects overseen by entities that are inattentive. The members agreed that this seems reasonable.

- 3. Dam Permitting Meetings Update:** John Broker-Campbell had no new information.
- 4. 2008 Recreation Plan Update:** Vickie reported that 50 copies of the Mt. Ascutney Recreation Plan have been printed. The Subcommittee decided to contact each town, library, high school library, regional planning commission, and state, non-profit, business, and recreational groups to direct them to an electronic copy on the CRJC website. They will also be asked if they would like a paper copy which can then be hand-delivered. In addition, the Subcommittee listed

organizations that might like a copy: NH and Vermont environmental, wildlife, and recreation departments, land trusts, Silvio Conte, CT River Watershed Council, Springfield Development Corporation, various Chambers of Commerce, Student Conservation Association, scouting groups, Ottaquechee River Group, Meeting Waters YMCA, snow machine clubs, Sullivan County ATV Club, Sugar Valley Snow Riders, VT Paddlers Club, TransCanada, State Parks (Ascutney and Wilgus), VT and NH Associations of Conservation Districts; Vermont River Conservancy, Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail, Ascutney Mount Audubon, NH Audubon, marinas, real estate brokers.... Vickie will gather e-mail addresses for these organizations.

5. **Real Estate Broker Information for New Homeowners:** Kelly reported that she is working on a brief brochure to explain how homeowners can improve their properties by protecting the river. Nancy said that her husband could help with formatting and design of the brochure. There was discussion about Audubon, National Wildlife, and Plant Wise certifications for property owners.
6. **Boat Washing Station at Hoyt's Landing:** Kelly did not have new information from TransCanada about a grant. She did say that she had researched using vinegar to clean a boat and it would take 20 minutes to remove the invasive plants. It was discussed that there are vinegars with higher acid content than those found in the grocery store. Kelly suggested that a low-volume, high-pressure washer might be a good system at the boat wash station, but it must be attended so the pressure washer would not be abused.
7. **Other Business:** The Subcommittee members expressed that the current system of e-mail for communication between meetings is adequate. Bill Manner reported that the Ottaquechee Natural Resources Conservation District would have their stream table at the upcoming Apple Festival in Springfield, VT on October 12. The Subcommittee discussed having an invasive plant workshop at St. Gaudens. John will check with a ranger there to see how they could develop a program with children and actually do invasive removals.

Membership was discussed. Vickie reported that she and Kelly had sent out polite letters to members who have not been attending to ask them to resign if they do not have time to attend the meetings. Ted Moynihan of Plainfield submitted his resignation due to time constraints. The Subcommittee decided that a second letter should be sent out to others who had not responded with a copy sent to the Select Board of the town. There were questions about member term limits. Vickie will find out and include them on the membership list.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20, 2013. The Subcommittee will discuss what "chapter" of the River Corridor Management Plan should be updated next. This may be held at the "Empty Bowl" Dinner and Concert in Springfield. Kelly will let us know.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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

#### **Tentative Agenda for November 20, 2013**

Decide which "chapter" should be updated next. Eat, drink, and be merry.