

Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee March 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Members Present: Elise Angelillo, Plainfield; Bill Manner, Springfield; Gil Whittemore, Weathersfield; Cordie Merritt and Judy Howland, Hartland; and Dorée Russell, Claremont.

CRJC Staff: Victoria Davis, UVLSRPC

Others: John Broker-Campbell, SWCRPC

Subcommittee Members Absent: Ted Moynihan, Plainfield; Michael Meeks, Cornish; Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; Kelly Stettner & 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 eight participating communities were represented, there was a quorum. Cordie chaired the meeting in Kelly's absence.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** Gil made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2013 meeting. Elise seconded the motion and unanimous agreement followed.
- 2. Permit Application/Proposed Work Review:** There were no new projects or applications for review.
- 3. Dam Permitting Meetings:** John stated that there was nothing new to report. His regional planning commission was prepared to ask that TransCanada evaluate the effects of climate change on erosion, but another agency had already requested this.
- 4. Septic System Workshop Update and Labeling Party:** Vickie reported that she had labels from all property owners in Vermont and New Hampshire along the river. The Subcommittee attached labels to the post cards which will go out the following day. She also stated that the regional planning commission had sent out the information to all of their towns and put the information in the RPC newsletter as well as the CRJC newsletter. Dorée reported that she had e-mailed the information to all Claremont staff and that the Claremont TV station would be filming the workshop for later release.

The Subcommittee brainstormed other ways to get the information out:

- E-Ticker News, Claremont (Vickie)
- Valley News events calendar (Vickie)
- Eagle Times events calendar (Vickie)
- Cornish Connect (Vickie)
- The Message, Springfield (Vickie)
- Springfield Area Public Access TV (Vickie)
- Windsor on Air (Vickie)
- Hartland List Serve (Cordie & Judy)
- Vermont area web sites (John)
- Vermont RPC to the south (John)

5. **2008 Recreation Plan Update:** Since Nancy was not at the meeting Vickie reported that Nancy had received comments from one person. The Subcommittee asked that Nancy e-mail the “Next Steps” out to the Subcommittee members and any other items that require comment. They felt this would be the last chance to respond.
6. **2013 Survey of the Rivers and Lakes Program:** The Subcommittee responded to the questions from NH DES to help them establish priorities since their funding and staffing has been cut. It was not clear if the Subcommittee is considered an appropriate advisory committee or not, but they answered the questions as best they could and asked that Vickie and Rachel fill in the blanks.
7. **Future Events/Plans:** The Subcommittee is still interested in the Swallow CORE project with Audubon. We just need to get Becky working with us. Distribution of the Riparian Buffer brochure was discussed and it was determined to wait until Vermont establishes what riparian buffers might be. This is in the legislature now. Thoughts for distribution included town offices and web sites; providing copies to conservation commissions; put on public TV stations; RPC meetings; ANR River Management Program (Todd Menees), real estate groups.
8. **Other Business:**
 - Didymo Cleaner:* Vickie had provided a study from Amy Smagula at NH DES that did not evaluate vinegar as a cleaner for didymo. However, Kelly found one which she provided done in Wisconsin that did recommend it. There was discussion that it made sense to use something nontoxic if possible, especially near water.
 - Conflict of Interest:* Vickie stated that the CRJC board would like the Subcommittees to be aware that if a member has a conflict of interest, they should not participate in meeting discussions as a Subcommittee Member. Cordie pointed out that this is already stated in the Rules of Procedure. Vickie will check to see if this is still a valid document and provide it to all if it is.
 - Subcommittee Goals:* The Subcommittee reiterated their concerns from the last meeting about longevity. They also determined that they would like to be a “pass-through” organization assisting other groups within the Mount Ascutney Subregion such as the Black River Action Committee (BRAT), trail groups, campsite groups, and towns. They would also like to help organize other groups like BRAT for other rivers/streams entering the Connecticut River (Ottaquechee River, Mill Brook, Williams Brook, Sugar River...). This would include a proposed boat washing station at Hoyt’s Landing. They would like someone to inventory all the relevant groups they might work with and consider this a priority to put before the CRJC boards. They would also like to be informed of the other Subcommittees’ goals once they are provided to CRJC. It is hoped that CRJC will consider the goals to be an evolving process as the Subcommittees grow and change. CRJC will be contacting Kelly for this discussion.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15, 2013. The Subcommittee will discuss what “chapter” of the River Corridor Management Plan should be updated next after the Recreation “chapter” is completed. They should also review the Recreation Plan amendments to finalize it for printing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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

Tentative Agenda for May 15

Prioritize goals and discuss “next steps” included in the Recreation Plan

Finalize Recreation Plan “chapter” for publication

Decide which “chapter” should be updated next

FERC meetings update

Septic System workshop review

Publications to be available at BRAT Herrick’s Cove Wildlife Festival table