

Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee November 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes

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

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

Subcommittee Members Absent: Gil Whittemore (e-mailed), Weathersfield; Elise Angelillo, Plainfield; Tom Herson & Margaret Perry (e-mailed), Rockingham.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Springfield High School in Springfield, VT after the Empty Bowl Dinner.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** Cordie made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2013 meeting. Nancy seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed. Judy made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2013 meeting. Nancy seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed.
- 2. Permit Application/Proposed Work Review:** The Subcommittee members had received copies of permit applications for the Stevens Brook Dam repair in Claremont and the Bull Run Well extension in Charlestown. Responses to both were due to the State before the meeting. No members had provided any comments. Dorée stated the Subcommittee needs guidelines for how to review applications. Vickie explained that there are guidelines which are in need of updating, but she will find out what she can. Also, she will try to develop a checklist to make sure she provides permit details that the Subcommittee members feel they need.
- 3. Dam Permitting Meetings Update:** John provided an update stating Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has commented on the final study plans and these comments are on their web site. There are 21 transects for an erosion study to include if there is any impact from the fluctuation of the water levels. According to John, TransCanada states they do not believe the water level fluctuation has any effect on river banks, but that erosion is caused by boat wakes. John participated in a conference call to select the transect sites, and he feels that they are appropriately located. Nancy wondered if TransCanada would help pay for riparian buffers along the river.
- 4. Local River Committee Workshop Update:** Dorée reported that she had learned a great deal at the workshop including about invasive plants and reviewing permit applications. She received a sign from NH DES to remind boaters to clean off their boats. She will put the sign at a Claremont boat launch. The other members were envious and wanted their own signs. Vickie will look into getting more NH signs and see if VT has similar signs.
- 5. 2008 Recreation Plan Update:** Vickie reported that 50 copies of the Mt. Ascutney Recreation Plan will be printed, and CRJC and the RPC have a list of e-mails for organizations along the river who might be interested in an electronic copy. The plans should be ready in January.

6. **Real Estate Broker Information for New Homeowners:** Nancy reported that she has a riparian buffer brochure that will be available to the real estate brokers and their riverfront customers. She distributed a draft and noted that some of the photos would be replaced with high-resolution photographs. The members determined that the CRJC web site and phone number should be used on the brochure for continuity and if someone from another river sub-region needed information, they could be directly to the appropriate sub-region contact. The web site could be revised to provide information as needed, such as the NH Shoreland Protection Act. Vickie asked if the brokers would be willing to print their own brochure copies.
7. **Boat Washing Station at Hoyt's Landing:** Kelly updated the members that she is applying for a grant to develop a fishing line recycling station at the Hoyt's Landing. She handed around a photograph of what the station would look like: it would be made out of PVC pipe with signs. The door would allow the insertion of fishing lines and lures, but not allow birds to nest in the opening. She has letters of support from CRJC and Vermont Audubon. She also has volunteers lined up to empty the container: YMCA camp, Boy Scouts, and an individual who likes to watch the ice fishing. Since people have become aware of Kelly's work, more organizations want the recycling system at other boat launches. Organizations Kelly is working with can be viewed at the following web sites:

Boat U.S. - : <http://www.boatus.com/foundation/monofilament/>

Berkley: <http://www.berkley-fishing.com/about/berkley-conservation-institute/recycling> and <http://www.berkley-fishing.com/about/berkley-conservation-institute/recycling/berkley-fish-habs>

8. **Membership:** Vickie reported that Barbara Rhoad of Windsor had resigned. Vickie also noted that she and Kelly had sent out letters to members who had not attended in several months to obtain their resignations or notice them that they would be dropped from the membership if they did not respond to the second contact. In addition, the Town of Springfield has nominated Bill Manner as a member. It is anticipated that Bill will be appointed at the December CRJC meeting.
9. **Other Business:** The members were asked to do some homework prior to the next meeting: look at the existing educational brochures on the CRJC website; and review the river management plan page to determine which chapter they felt should be updated next.

Next meeting: *The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the RPC in Ascutney unless otherwise noticed.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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