

**Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee
November 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Subcommittee Members Present: Kelly Stettner, Springfield; Elise Angelillo, Plainfield; Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield; Cordie Merritt and Judy Howland, Hartland; Barbara Rhoad, Windsor; Tom Heron and Margaret Perry, Rockingham.

CRJC Staff: Victoria Davis, UVLSRPC

Others: John Broker-Campbell, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission, and Bill Manner, Springfield

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission in Ascutney, VT. Since six of the eight participating communities were represented, there was a quorum. Cordie made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15th meeting. Nancy seconded the motion, and unanimous agreement followed. Kelly brought in delicious banana bread made by her 14-year old daughter, Moira which was much appreciated.

Permit Application/Proposed Work Review: Vickie stated that CRJC had received a courtesy notice from the NH Department of Transportation that they would be replacing the guardrails along seven miles of Route 12 in Walpole and Charlestown. Kelly wondered if they had considered using permeable pavement on the shoulders, but this was unknown. No action was required as it was not an application.

2008 Recreation Plan Update: Kelly and Elise reported that they had reviewed the plan preface and the entire plan. They had made several minor changes including moving a section on invasive plants that seemed out of place. They also noted that long statistical narrative might be better suited in a table or chart. They requested that Vickie review the plan to make sure referenced resources are still current since the original recreation plan was written in 2008. Nancy said she will make the changes to the plan. There was discussion of how to make the document a “living document” on line including the provision of a public comments option. This would require screening comments to remove inappropriate comments. It was then discussed that the subcommittee should find out how much the web is accessed by the public now.

Nancy stated that there are a lot of recommendations in the Recreation Plan that the Subcommittee should follow through on. Comments that a certain agency should assist in the promotion of the Recreation Plan needs to be communicated by the Subcommittee, and recommendations to inform the public such as boaters should be performed by the Subcommittee by signs or whatever would be most effective.

Once the plan has been modified by Nancy as suggested at the meeting, all members will receive the document to review and make comments and suggestions prior to public distribution. Members are to get comments to Nancy by January 4th.

Annual Education Event: Vickie reported that the Granite State Designers and Installers Association is available to give free public workshops on maintaining septic systems. They had given this workshop for lakefront property owners recently, and it was reported as a good workshop. The

Subcommittee determined they are very interested in hosting this workshop, but would like more information: dates likely to be available, type of space required, time of workshop, and responsibilities of the host. They felt it would be important to emphasize the expense of a failed system when not properly maintained by periodic pumping. Vickie will contact the Association and report back to the Subcommittee.

Kelly reminded the Subcommittee that they had discussed coordinating a public workshop with the Herrick's Cover festival on May 5, 2013. It was determined that the Subcommittee will focus on the septic system workshop, and Kelly will have selected educational CRJC brochures at her booth for Black River Action Committee.

The Subcommittee also discussed the possibility of having a workshop with Audubon Swallow CORE in the spring. It is not definite that Audubon could provide this, but the Subcommittee thought it would be fun to do a paddle down the river to see actual swallow nesting sites. The swallow population has been decreasing and Audubon is trying to get volunteers to locate nesting sites for the project. More information about the project can be found at www.nhaudubon.org/swallow-core.

Subcommittee Dam Representative for CRJC Appointment: TransCanada dam preliminary relicensing documents have been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) including the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Dams. The Bellows Falls Dam is the only dam in the Subcommittee's region, but the meetings by FERC are for all three dams and are held at the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission offices in Ascutney. Margaret Perry and Elise Angelillo volunteered to attend these meetings when possible. Generally, they meet every two months for about two hours. The next meeting is December 20th at 3:00 PM.

Other Business: Gil Whittemore could not attend the meeting due to illness, but he had e-mailed prior to the meeting to request discussion of adding resource information about where seedlings could be purchased by private landowners. He has had a difficult time finding weeping willow. Vickie stated that she had e-mailed the NH Nursery in Boscawen for a catalog as well as the Ottaquechee and the Windham Conservation Districts. The NH Nursery may not carry weeping willow as it is not a native plant. Kelly suggested the Intervale Conservation Nursery in Burlington. Elise stated that Longacres in Lebanon has weeping willows. Kelly and Tom suggested contacting county foresters.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission in Ascutney. A snow date is January 30th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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

Tentative Agenda for January 16 (snow date January 30)

Review Recreation Plan and finalize draft for publication