



## CRJC Mount Ascutney River Subcommittee

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Windsor Welcome Center

3 Railroad Ave, Windsor Vermont

Draft Minutes

### Present:

John Bruno, Charlestown  
Cordie Merritt, Hartland  
Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield  
Bill Manner, Springfield  
Kelly Stettner, Springfield  
Tom Hernon, Rockingham  
Margaret Perry, Rockingham  
Tara Bamford, staff  
Jessica Wilmot, guest

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly Stettner and introductions made.
2. Jessica Wilmot, a teacher at the Weathersfield School, visited to discuss potential topics for a service learning project. Support is provided by the 4 Winds Nature Institute and the school. The goal is to promote the river and stewardship of it. Another recent service learning project Jessica organized involved putting up a compost shed with a grant from Upper Valley linkages. The goal is engagement and getting children to feel invested in the community. Jessica noted that with the emphasis on STEM, a stream table would be a perfect project as it could tie together building, engineering and erosion. The media and cost of stream tables were discussed with the consensus that it would be \$600-\$1000.

Kelly suggested she could lead a river bug study for a class in conjunction with her work with BRAT. It was also noted that CRWC's river clean-up on Sept. 23/24 might be a good opportunity for hands-on stewardship. The trails and nature area at Wilgus State Park would provide a safe environment. Another suggestion was nontoxic invasives such as loosestrife or garlic mustard. Jason at ACOE was recommended as a contact. Jessica reported that the older children do water quality monitoring. They get free water quality kits from Lamotte. It is part of the next gen science kit for older grades.

Culverts were suggested as another possible topic. Bill offered to give a talk on culvert sizing in connection with his work with the Conservation District, Irene and the Pennsylvania DEP.

Nancy offered to look for a stretch of the Black River that students could safely access. She will bring her husband who is a geologist.

3. The minutes from March 3, 2016 were tabled.
4. There were no permits to review.
5. Preparations were discussed for the next Septic Smart workshop. It was agreed that members should reach out to any real estate agents that they know. Tara said she'd look for the to-do list in last year's emails and send around. Nancy agreed to be the lead this year. She will start with nailing down a date and place. September 17 was identified as a first choice and the Nolan Murray Center in Springfield as the first choice of venues. Tom offered to see if it is available and to ask his HEB contact about coffee and donuts.
6. Information will be circulated for the CRWC Source to Sea Clean-up in case members want to join an area group.
7. Annual elections for Chair and Vice Chair for FY17 - Kelly offered to stay on as Vice Chair. The motion was made to take her up on that by Perry/Heatley and voted by all. By motion of Hernon/Perry, Nancy was unanimously elected Chair. Nancy reported that Weathersfield has renewed her appointment for one year.
8. Updates-
  - a. CRJC - Tara reported that the FERC process has been the focus this year. She also reported that she will be providing staff support for the coming year but through UVLSRPC rather than NCC.
  - b. TransCanada FERC relicensing - Focus has been on the erosion studies and upcoming 401 permit. It was agreed that CRJC's letters should go to the governors and ANR and DES.
  - c. Springfield - Kelly reported on the rain garden that BRAT did as a demo to address the problem that Tropical Storm Irene revealed. She can do a tour in conjunction with the septic workshop.
  - d. Tara provided information on 3 NH Grant Opportunities - Moose Plates, Source Water Protection, and 319.
  - e. DES Rules changes - Tara offered to compile comments and submit them.
  - f. Other
9. The discussion of the Water Resources Plan was tabled due to the time. Members were reminded to be reviewing the Recommendations in Appendix C and to bring your comments/updates to a future meeting to discuss - [http://crjc.org/new%20WR4chapter/WATER%20RESOURCES\\_4MtAscutney.pdf](http://crjc.org/new%20WR4chapter/WATER%20RESOURCES_4MtAscutney.pdf)

10. Other Business - The Vilas Bridge was discussed. It carries wastewater from Walpole across the river to the Bellow Falls wastewater treatment plant. It is the only concrete arch bridge of its period. It was reported that DOT earlier committed to maintaining it but now isn't. It is unclear if it town or state. There is concern about Bellows Falls not renewing the agreement re the wastewater. John reported that DOT replaced a Newport bridge on the condition that the town maintain it.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 13 to go over the details for the septic workshop. It was suggested that Marie Caduto be asked to come to a future meeting to report on the basin plans.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford.