



CRJC Meeting
January 24, 2011
Montshire Museum

Present: Glenn English, George Watkins, Bob Christie, Peter Gregory, Tom Kennedy, Bev Major, Alex DeFelice, Elizabeth Coppola, Gayle Ottmann, Janet Rebman, Rick Hopkins (for Michaela Stickney), Dick Winters (for Cheston Newbold)

Staff: Theresa Darling

Guests: David Goudy – Executive Director of Montshire Museum, David Deen – CRWC, Rick Walling – Riverbend Subcommittee Chair, Peter Webster, Bernie Folta

Glenn English, Chair

10:20am

David Goudy of the Montshire Museum presented information on new CT River exhibits. There are two projects that are being worked on right now. One is a long term project that will take place right outside. The idea is to build a scale exhibit, one foot per mile, of the river. There is a lot of room to do interpretation, look at human history, plants and animals. It is in the early phases right now. They put in some outdoor seating and toilets. They are still refining the plans and are welcoming additional comments.

The second project is more immediate. There is an interpretive meadow between there and the riverbank that has a lot of invasive species. They want to do native riparian buffer planting showing what was there and what is there now. Also, a companion exhibit for peoples choices of landscaping materials. They brought in some choices to keep native landscaping. They will have alternative material for landscaping. They will be interested in any comments.

Glenn said thank you and thank you for letting CRJC use your facility.

Introductions

Minutes of the November 22, 2010 meeting – George moved to accept. Gayle seconded. Unanimous.

CRJC financial reports –Theresa discussed AR and AP.

Proposed Bylaw Revisions - Glenn said CRJC had been going back and forth with this. They can be adopted today. Glenn asked if anyone has anything to add. Bob Christie said that the commissions have faced some severe changes this year. It became apparent in the past meetings that commissioners needed to become more involved. The staff was so competent that commissioners were not that involved in the past and now that there is reduced staff, commissioners have to become more involved. Several versions of the bylaws have been passed around and Steve Couture has added input on the bylaws relating to any RSA's to be sure that we are in accord with the state. Feedback from the commissioners that seemed necessary has been added. The focus from the beginning was to re-structure and add committees for the commissioners.

For many years, starting from the beginning, CRJC was run by a Steering Committee. That has been effective over the years but has also led to problems. The attempt in this revision of the bylaws is to adopt more comprehensive bylaws with respect to how the committees relate to the officers.

Bob also would also like to point out that bylaws should be updated as times and events change. There were some minor changes made but they have not been changed substantively since 1996. The bylaws are not locked in forever, as there can always be changes made. CRJC has also reached the point that it will be able to survive and now can see a bright future. Bob stated that his personal feeling is that CRJC really needs to move on so we can start getting commissioners more involved.

Glenn suggested we go through the proposal by each article.

Article 1 - 1-2 - Bob has expanded this somewhat. Rick Hopkins commented that these are quite a bit different than the old ones.

Article 2 – 2.1 Add “All reference to state statutes are based on NH law”

Article 3 - registered office – right now it is Theresa's home.

Article 4 – ok

Article 5 —5.3 Janet Rebman started discussion about the election of president being open ended vs. term limited. There was discussion about keeping the term open ended. Glenn asked if there is a motion for a change. No motion. An addition was made to 5.3 after”... the president and vice-president shall serve for one year” add“and may be re-elected in accordance with section 5.4”.

Article 6 –6.1 Janet Rebman discussed the difficulty of committing to a whole day of meetings, stating that it is hard to devote that kind of time. Glenn agreed. It was agreed to change “at least monthly” to “bi-monthly”.

Article 6.6 - Gayle stated that commissioners should get notice of meetings sooner than 5 days. This was changed to 7 days notice for town clerks and commissioners.

Article 6.10- Remove last line “Robert's Rules of Order shall guide Corporation meeting procedures” because it is already in 6.9.

Article 6.12 - Discussed whether or not Action without a Meeting language was needed. It was agreed to leave it in.

Skip to 8. Bob Christie thought each committee needs to set up their own goals. The local regional subcommittees have a great deal to do with keeping us alive. Glenn would like to add some at-large people on the proposed executive committee. It was agreed to add 2 at-large members to the executive committee. All agreed to add to standing committee – “accordance with the commission and approved”.

Commissioners on each committee, the need for committees and the number of committees were discussed. Bev stated that one concern is that the genesis of this whole bylaw revision is for commissioners to take on responsibility. If it is crossed off then CRJC is not doing what needs to be done. Glenn would like standing committees to be named in the bylaws but not necessarily mandated.

Rick Walling stated that there are inconsistencies with the terminology for the subcommittees. It was noted that the bylaws need to be reviewed for the meaning of abbreviations.

Glenn stated that the bylaws are not ready to be accepted and they need more work before the next meeting.

Grants updates – Peter reported that state grants are going fine. The Vtrans sign grant should be done in the spring. EPA should be done shortly. Ammo is wrapping up. MO/CO is still trying to tie down more funding so it will be wrapped up in the spring if it goes. If it doesn't go the three grants that go through CRJC will be closed out as well. One byway grant has been closed out, one has been transferred. Rick Walling commented that the Riverbend Subcommittee would like to know what has been going on with Ammo.

Progress on NH commissioners' recruitment – Glenn stated that CRVRC has 7 vacancies and there are 5 individuals that need have volunteered to go through G&C.

Progress on contracting program support – Tom reported that he hasn't been able to follow up on a programming person yet.

Commissioners' comments – Glenn reported that the legislation is still on track and the bill is in progress to relocate the CRVRC to NHDES.

Gayle Ottmann reported that the Byway Council met last week. There is going to be an RFP put out for the corridor plan. The Itineraries grant is the one that has been moved from CRJC to the Byway Council. There is a new state byway that is being looked at on Route 4.

Glenn announced that David Dean is hosting a Northern Pass project informational meeting at 1:00 pm at the Fireside Inn. All are invited.

Rick Walling commented that several of the subcommittee members have commented that CRJC is dead. Glenn replied that once we get staff additions we will be able to better support the subcommittees. He has met and discussed this with 3 of the 5 subcommittees.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.