

Headwaters Committee Meeting  
Colebrook Town Hall  
December 14, 2010

Meeting Minutes- draft

Attendees: Louis Lamoureux, Edwin Mellett (chair), Gary Paquette, Kevin McKinnon, Larry Rappaport, Bill Schomburg, Tom Caron

Quest CRJC members- Brendan Whittaker, John Severance

**AGENDA**

1. (7:00) Housekeeping

a. Introductions-

Brendan and John conveyed a request made during a brief conversation with Adair Mulligan to say 'Happy Holidays' and the Headwaters Committee is often in her thoughts. A sincere 'ditto back to Adair' was expressed by all members.

b. Minutes of the previous meeting (if available at this time)-

Previous minutes are not available- lost in cyberspace

2. Reports by CRJC Commissioners

a. Presentation of floodplain data and discussion

Many NH towns have an ordinance, guidelines, and/or permit requirements for floodplain development but all agreed that most could use updating or revisions.

**Unanimously stated that all the floodplain maps need updating as they are currently very inaccurate, e.g. showing floodplains where there are none and conversely not displaying some obvious floodplain areas. This is the biggest and most frustrating component of addressing floodplain issues at the local town level.** Colebrook has tried numerous times to acquire better data and floodplain maps... so far to no avail. (There is a NH RSA requiring that towns have floodplain guidelines and a permitting procedure tied to floodplain insurance.)

Some VT towns have zoning ordinances that include floodplains and permit requirements.

Some towns in both states have no floodplain ordinances, or guidelines.

Development in floodplains continues and it is legal (permitted) in many cases. In some cases (locally and across the USA) damaged or destroyed buildings are rebuilt in the same location in floodplains.

Some local development projects are a concern to the Headwaters Committee.

Numerous resources are available for improved ordinances and general floodplain resources- Bath, Northumberland, Colebrook and other towns have ordinances that could be used as guidelines; North Country Council, NH-Department of Environmental Services, and the Office of Energy and Planning have model ordinances; New Hampshire

Floodplain Management Handbook (2006); OEP offers a Tutorial online service on finding and printing floodplain maps; many federal guidelines exist.

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b. CRJC staffing update.

Review of the loss of CRJC staff was discussed and the void created by that event. Commissioners are trying to 'step up to the plate' and assist the single most importance issue- maintenance and assistance to the Local Regional Subcommittees. It is hoped that at least a part-time River Coordinator will be hired to assist with this issue.

3. Permit Reviews (if any)

Ed has received numerous wetland permit applications but with the loss of assistance from CRJC has not been able to keep up with addressing them. Brendan, Bill, and Ed will review them and bring the pertinent applications to be addressed at the next Headwaters Committee meeting for review.

4. Reports of Projects and Happenings in the Headwaters Region

The Colebrook Mohawk and Business Park project has been modified but currently seems acceptable to all players, locally, NH-DES, several grantors, EPA, NH Fish and Game, Army Corp of Engineers, CRJC, etc. and will probably begin construction within the next month.

The large DC transmission line is of major concern to the Headwaters Committee and it is felt 'unnecessary' and not worth the proposed destruction of the North Country landscape. Several negative impacts were discussed with Visual/Scenic impact at the top of the list for most members.

The Headwaters Committee is drafting a letter of opposition to the project and will send it to the President of the CRJC (Glenn English) hoping that unified support, acceptance from the CRJC, and additional letters will be produced and distributed.

The VT River Conservancy has been working in the Headwaters Region installing eco-friendly campsites, picnic tables, fire rings, and compost toilets at choice locations along the river on lands that private owners have given permission. They are walk-in and/or canoe accessible.

An exchange of emails was done for further communications.

5. Next Meeting

Mondays were agreed as the most available day of the week for meetings. January 10, 7 pm, at the Colebrook Town Office Building is the next meeting of the Headwaters Committee.

Adjourned at 8:30pm.