

Riverbend Subcommittee Meeting

Draft Minutes

Thursday September 22, 2011

North Country Council conference room, Rocks Estate, Bethlehem, NH

Present:

Rick Walling, Bath

Glenn English, CRJC Commissioner

Jan Edick, Littleton

Jim Sherrard, Littleton

Bill Graves, Barnet

Tara Bamford, NCC staff

1. Housekeeping

a. Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM and introductions were made.

b. Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed but not voted on as a quorum was not present.

c. Election of officers was deferred to a later date due to the lack of a quorum.

d. The member list was reviewed and divided up for the purpose of making calls to make sure people are still interested and find out if Thursdays are still best. Richard Martin had left Tara a message that he now has selectboard on Thursday but we need to find out if that rules out all Thursdays for him.

It was agreed that rules of procedure would be helpful to determine issues like what is a quorum. The CRJC files contain rules for the other 4 subcommittees and the CRJC just adopted new by-laws, so there are several models. A phone-in option was discussed as a way to increase participation.

The liaison role with towns was discussed and the importance of connecting with selectboards, con comms and planning boards. Bullet points aka elevator speech is important for helping members talk to local boards.

It was noted that participation is better when there are projects to engage members, such as the corridor plan updates. Everyone also needs to have all the past plan elements so they have a context for their work.

It was agreed that floodplain ordinances are a timely topic. Rick mentioned that Bath is the only Riverbend town with a no-build ordinance.

e. It was decided that most meetings should be held at the Littleton Community House as long as funding permits. Littleton has been the best location as far as attendance. Members will be asked if any Thursday still works. Once a schedule is established

members will be asked to post it in their towns. Tara will mail extra agenda to those without email to post in town.

f. Glenn gave an update on CRJC staffing, basically that because CRJC had overextended its reliance on grants, the organization had to downsize by eliminating employees. Staff support will now be obtained through contracts with RPC's, primarily UVLSRPC who will in turn subcontract with the appropriate RPC for subcommittee support. North Country Council will be assisting Headwaters and Riverbend. It is expected that each state will be continuing support for CRJC.

g. Process for permit reviews was discussed briefly. It was agreed that for now Rick will send material out to all of the members and compile comments.

2. Rick reported on the following permit reviews:

Bedell Bridge Boat Ramp Standard Dredge and Fill
Permit Application (Haverhill) – Sent letter with comments.

I-93 NB & SB and Rte 18 over
the Connecticut River, Littleton, NH/Waterford, VT
NHDOT Project # 15926 – Sent letter with comments.

National Grid Comerford No. 18
Substation Revitalization Project, Monroe, NH
NH DES Alteration of Terrain Permit
No. AoT-0109 – No comments.

Houston-Littleton Blasting and
Excavation Project, Littleton, NH – Sent letter with comments.

Draft Indirect Discharge Permit
ID-9-0108, Wells River – No comments.

Draft Indirect Discharge Permit
ID-9-0306 Duncan's idea Mill, LLC, Passumpsic – No comments.

Repair to Rt 10, Haverhill. No comments.

3. Projects requiring grant funds were discussed and the following needs identified:

- Publish recreation plan.
- Outreach on floodplain issues, e.g., no build floodplain ordinances.

- Water quality testing on mainstem, including study of causes of turbidity.

4. Glenn reported that the Byway has split off as a separate entity from CRJC with Nat Tripp chairing.

5. Reports from tributaries – Ammonoosuc LAC has just finished water quality testing for the season. ACT has undertaken an initiative focusing on the agricultural economy in the area called Keep Growing recently be awarded USDA-funded grant. Tara mentioned that it is one of several ag-economy focused projects in the North Country including North Country Council's EDA-funded project to redevelop the Groveton mill. Wells River has only had one meeting since finishing the management plan. Stevens has been inactive for about 20 months.

6. Other Business

Rick has been participating in the Comerford Dam fish mitigation project – velocity refuge and side channel projects – meetings. The project is on hold until next year.

7. Next meeting – Will be December 15th unless shoreland presentation is scheduled for 12/8.

Minutes submitted by Tara Bamford, NCC for CRJC

Task List-

Rick, Glenn, Jan, Bill, Jim – contact other members on list re interest and scheduling conflicts, and upcoming program

Tara – ask CRJC for member list in updatable form, new bylaws, insurance certificate; Adair's roll of maps; give Rachel list of grant needs

-find out what Thursday Littleton community house is available

-schedule shoreland event for 12/8 or 12/15 and send to towns and paper

- mail extra agenda to people without email so they can post one in town

Rick – make sure everyone has all of the plan documents

Glenn- Look into Haverhill's \$50 support.

Future agenda items-

Minutes 12/16/10, 9/22/11

Rules of procedure, incl. quorum, phone-in option