

Mt Ascutney River Subcommittee minutes from February 22, 2011

Attendance

Jan Lambert – Charlestown
Bernie Folta – Claremont
Cordie Merritt – Hartland
Kurt Staudtner – Springfield
Nancy Franklin – Plainfield
Gil Whittimore – Weathersfield
John Broker-Campbell – SWCRPC
Tom Kennedy – SWCRPC/CRJC Board

Welcome and Introductions

At 7:05pm the meeting was called to order and introductions were given.

Tom K gave an overview of the state of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions currently. Due to some financial mismanagement, there have been staff layoffs and a loss of organizational identity. Currently, Theresa Darling is the only staff person and she is working on cleaning up grants and making sure all bills are paid. The organization has lost energy and the steering committee want to re-energize the whole board by reengaging the Local River Subcommittees to build support. Glenn English (CRJC board chair) has sent out a letter to all LRS to explain the current situation.

Currently, CRJC has only two income producing grants; totaling approximately \$60,000 which is much lower than the approximately \$500,000 operating budget CRJC has had previously. The current budget shows a loss of federal and state support for the organization.

Gil W. asked what the current vision for CRJC and the LRS has been in the past and what direction the board envisions taking moving forward. Nancy F mentioned that in the past the goal has been to protect and preserve the river as a resource. In 1993, the LRS were tasked with development of a Corridor Management Plan which was completed in 1995/6. The plans were presented to each member town and were used as a resource for policy and regulatory issues. Once the plans were completed and being implemented, many of the LRS lost energy and funding was also reduced. The current plans need to be revised to include information on the current threats that the Connecticut River is facing (aquatic invasive species, etc.).

Bernie F would like to know the authorizing language originally used by Vermont and what the original intent was in creating the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. Gil W. stated that there needs to be a clear purpose and function of the local river subcommittee's. Jan L mentioned that she feels the groups' purpose is to be the watchdog over the river in the defined region.

Tom K posed the question of whether the Mt Ascutney Subcommittee wanted to continue as an organized group and mentioned that the SWCRPC has made a commitment to help but needs local volunteers to help. Cordie M feels that the group has to continue but Jan L has doubts.

Tom Kennedy distributed model Flood Hazard Regulations that towns in New Hampshire could use when developing their flood hazard regulation. He discussed the importance of flood hazard regulation for developing land use plans and the need to have regulation in order for a person to get flood insurance. He asked the members from Claremont and Charlestown whether they had regulations and would they be willing to discuss them with their respective municipalities.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35