



## RIVERBEND SUBCOMMITTEE

### Minutes -March 4, 2010

PRESENT: Rick Walling, Bath; P.J. Blanchard, Monroe; Bill Graves, Barnet; Jim Doig and Scott Labun, Newbury; Deb Noble, Concord; Don Hallee, Lunenburg; Mike Crosby, Dalton; Jan Edick, Littleton; Bob Elwell, Lancaster; Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: Guildhall, Ryegate, Haverhill, Waterford

PUBLIC: Mark van der Hayden, Dalton

1. Housekeeping- Minutes of the December 3 meeting were approved. Theresa Darling is the new Business & Office Manager at CRJC main office in Charlestown. Rebecca Brown has stepped down as Communications Director in order to devote more time to Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust. CRJC application to VT Conservation License Plate Program for grant to print recreation plans and create riparian buffer exhibit was unsuccessful. Bill advised that shoreland bill currently in VT legislature is meeting strong resistance in the area.
2. CT River Water Resources Management Plan - Adair encouraged members to give presentations to town boards and citizens in their own communities using the CDs that have been provided. Each member should to identify recommendations in the plan that are appropriate for their town to consider, and follow through. Scott reported that he plans to give one in Newbury. Bill said the Caledonian Record carried a large article about the plan in early February.
3. Permit issues
  - a. Discussed project to build new connector road at Comerford Station, Monroe. Voted unanimously, on a motion by Bill seconded by Jim, to recommend that the road be built with permeable pavement to reduce stormwater runoff and that there should be no net loss of wetlands.
  - b. Discussed project to rebuild culvert under Route 135 for Cow Brook in Littleton, to improve fish passage and increase safety. Agreed to endorse the project and applaud the cooperation between NH DOT and Fish & Game.
  - c. Draft discharge permit for Ryegate Associates for cooling water and other miscellaneous wastewater: details not available at meeting time; agreed to circulate details by email to gather opinion.
  - d. Discussed NHDOT project at Bath Narrows to replace cable guard rail with more substantial guard rail. NH Div. of Historical Resources is participating in project planning. Rick reported that construction of the road through the Narrows in 1827 was considered an engineering feat. Members agreed that no road straightening should occur in this highly scenic area, and that the guardrail should not obstruct the view of the river, and use a cable with more closely spaced supports. Members discouraged cutting down the historic wall. There is no history of accidents with cars going into the river here, and speed is posted at 15 mph; a larger guardrail does not seem warranted. A turnaround on Route 135 is needed north of the Narrows; most people use Rick's driveway. Will copy Bath Historical Society on comment.
4. Connecticut River Byway
  - a. Adair gave a short powerpoint presentation on the Byway, including purpose (economic development through heritage tourism) and recent projects including new exhibit, map/guide, inventory of byway "assets" and new history itineraries. Deb noted that CDs with information on Vermont State Register sites is available from Nancy Boone at the DHR in VT, and that information on "digital downtowns" is available for St. Johnsbury and possibly other towns.
  - b. Paddlers' Trail of canoe campsites- Vermont River Conservancy is spearheading effort to better organize this trail and called planning session of various groups, including CRJC and UVLT. At next Riverbend meeting will review potential campsite locations. Deb noted a good campsite on Comerford near Pine Grove. Advised that a parcel of land should be purchased on Comerford Reservoir for this purpose.
  - c. Haverhill Heritage Commission project at Founders Park, N. Haverhill - Hazen site near campground that is under construction
  - d. New posting of National Register nomination information on the CRJC web site, including five Lancaster sites. Towns and historical societies can use these to build local tours.
  - e. CRJC has a scenic byway grant to create 12 new history-related itineraries, 8 for auto touring and 4 for bicycle touring; Adair asked for ideas. Scott recommended bicycling from Newbury to Wells River

to Woodsville (on the Rail Trail), and back on Route 5, although he noted that the lack of shoulder on Route 5 is difficult. Some members said that bicycling is encouraged in Europe in areas that are much worse from a safety perspective. The new weight limit on I91 should help take heavier traffic off Route 5. Deb said a good bike route is from St. J on Route 5 to Barnet, across either bridge to Monroe, north on 135 to Route 18, to Lower Waterford, East Barnet, and back to Route 5. Another route is nicknamed “the five and dime”...Route 5 to Route 10 in NH and back.

5. Reports from the tributaries:

- a. Ammonoosuc River - Rick reported that Ray Lobdell is working with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust on conservation of a 47 acre parcel of floodplain just downstream of the Salmon Hole Bridge, using wetlands mitigation funding. This land is on a high yield aquifer and at a part of the river that is stocked with trout. It includes a 4.9 acre forested island. Agreed to send a letter of support for this project, on a motion by Scott seconded by Jan. Rick said that the local advisory committee had had good press coverage.
- b. Wells/Stevens River - Bill reported that Barnet has responded to culvert issues highlighted in both the Stevens River and Connecticut River plans, and is working with NVDA to identify problem culverts.
- c. Israel's River - Bob Elwell asked that a future agenda item include the ice dam on this tributary.