



UPPER VALLEY RIVER SUBCOMMITTEE Minutes -April 26, 2010

PRESENT: Marc White and Carl Schmidt, Orford; Lynn Bohi and Linda Wilson, Hartford; Jim Kennedy and Dick Podolec, Hanover; Linda Matteson and Cy Severance, Thetford; Steve Stocking, Fairlee; Nancy Jones, Bradford; Adair Mulligan, CRJC

ABSENT: Norwich, Piermont, Lyme, Lebanon

1. Housekeeping - Minutes of the meeting of March 16 were approved on a motion by Carl, seconded by Cy. Adair reported that the NH Office of Energy and Planning had proposed zero funding for the NH Connecticut River Commission; much support for reinstating it has been received; outcome still unknown. CRJC testimony on dock and shoreland bills in VT legislature relies on Water Resources Plan and advises that VT dock rules for CT River match those of NH. Shoreland legislation in current form would have little benefit. CRJC has presented program on floodplain conservation in North Country using Upper Valley floodplain development examples, to good effect.
2. Connecticut River Byway - Reviewed first draft of history itinerary that brings travelers from the welcome center in WRJ up to Hanover, then up river following RR line and Route 5 to Lyme, Orford, Fairlee, N. Thetford, E. Thetford, Thetford Hill, Thetford Center, Union Village, Norwich, and back. The Bradford area will be covered in a tour that will start in Haverhill Corner. Lynn proposed a route from Norwich back to WRJ, and said that walking tour brochures are available for Hartford's historic villages. Cy advised adding historic cemeteries. Marc was the author of Orford's excellent historic tour brochure. Jim suggested a side trip up the Mascoma River valley to downtown Lebanon and Coburn Park and then on to Enfield Shaker Village. Adair described contents of the community handbook being prepared for visitor centers and byway towns. Nancy asked that Bradford's trails be included.
3. Permit issues:
 - a. Rowing facility at Fullington Farm, Hanover - shoreland permit not yet submitted pending resolution of questions by ZBA. Reviewed Hanover Conservation Commission letter. Nancy noted lights on the dock are for boater safety. Jim has offered to design a mitigation package as gift to town: removal of invasives, planting buffer, stormwater control, pedestrian access, seating, other wildlife improvements. Subcommittee commended this and agreed better to do mitigation at site than send dollars to a fund to be spent elsewhere.
 - b. Vermont permit review: Linda Matteson thought subcommittees should comment on Act 250 projects. RPCs were asked to notify CRJC of river-related projects, but has not happened.
 - c. Rivercrest slope failure restoration - reviewed stormwater plan and photos. Jim said when a detention pit re-dug in the 1980s the town conservation commission was worried because a slight failure was occurring. Is little general understanding of varves.
 - d. Piermont bank failure - Nancy said the old Hood Milk Creamery had a pipe entering the river here; other newer buildings in the industrial park hooked their stormwater pipes to it. Then the old pipe failed and water backed into the cleanout building just above. Trench has expanded and erosion may undermine this building.
 - e. Update on replacement septic system for Lyme cabin - now proposing tank and pumping.
4. Connecticut River Water Resources Management Plan - Members were reminded to select recommendations to pursue within their towns, and to seek support and advice from each other. Equipment and prepared presentations are available for their use.
5. Tri-State Targeted Watershed Initiative - Members invited to CRJc's presentation to Lebanon City Council May 19. Despite rainy summer, almost no bacteria violations.