



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Windsor Welcome Center

MINUTES

Present:

Colleen O'Neill, Cornish
Cordelia Merritt, Hartland
Judy Howland, Hartland
Nancy Heatley, Weathersfield
Kelly Stettner, Springfield
Tara Bamford, Coordinator

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 by Nancy Heatley, Chair.
2. Minutes of March 21, 2017 were approved by motion of Howland/O'Neill.
3. Permit Reviews - None
4. Septic Smart workshop – Nancy inquired about City of Claremont locations but has not heard back. She will follow-up with a visit or call. The date of the workshop will be September 23. Kelly agreed to lead the Subcommittee's September 12 meeting on last minute details as Nancy (and Tara) will be away.

The tentative agenda for the workshop was discussed as 1. Septic system overview, dos and don'ts, 2. New technology, special cases, 3. NH regulations.

It was agreed that contacts to potential speakers needs to get started. Kelly offered to reach out to Vickie Davis about real estate engagement.

5. Dam relicensing update – Great River Hydro has purchased the dams from TransCanada. They had a few short notice info sessions in a few towns. It was reported from the stakeholder meetings that per Andy Fisk it is now in the hands of the RPCs to compile lists of mitigation projects, but Andy still wants feedback esp. on recreation projects. It was agreed that the towns should send letters to FERC with the town meeting results. Tara conveyed the Upper Valley Subcommittee's concerns that the list of recreation projects being compiled by the CRWC-led stakeholders group may be a distraction from the mitigation fund which would be available on an ongoing basis. There was concern that without funding, towns can't know the cost now of restoration of existing eroding banks, or what issues restoration would cause up or downstream.

The flaws in the erosion studies were also discussed, such as rip-rapped segments being counted as "stable" when calculating the percentage that is eroding. The studies also looked at normal operating procedures vs what the power company is allowed to do under the permit.

It was agreed that members should make sure their towns stay informed and also keep in touch with their RPCs on needs.

6. Work on update of Water Resources plan – It was agreed that Google Docs sounds like a good tool for collaborative work, and that putting in Appendix C as a separate file would be a good start. It was agreed that everyone should reach out to their conservation commissions for input, and also look at Appendix F for their town.

7. Updates-

Nancy reported on Herricks Cove where she volunteered to assist the Conte Refuge folks and keep an eye on a CRJC table with the new tri-fold CRJC display she designed along with updated buffer and homeowners guides.

Cordie and Judy are interested in using the display at Hartland's July 4th Old Home Day. Tara will bring the table etc down to Hartland prior to the event.

Nancy reported that the Basin 10 prioritization meeting is still to come so there is still time for towns to get projects onto the list for consideration. There are several projects from Weathersfield, recurring problem areas that can be fixed. Trout Unlimited is involved. The town will save money in the long run. Marie Caduto is also looking for input on waters important to protect for specific uses (ORW).

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford.