



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, May 14, 2019
Windsor Welcome Center
7:00PM

Minutes

Attendees

Plainfield	Elise Angelillo		Windsor		
Plainfield	David Taylor		Windsor		
Cornish	Bill Gallagher	X	Weathersfield	Howard Beach	X
Cornish	Colleen O'Neill	X	Weathersfield	Nancy Heatley	X
Claremont			Springfield	Bill Manner	X
Claremont			Springfield	Kelly Stettner	
Hartland	Cordelia Merritt		Rockingham	Thomas Hernon	
Hartland	Judy Howland		Rockingham	Margaret Perry	
Charlestown					
Charlestown					

Laurie Callahan, Speaker – Aquatic Invasive Species

Members of the public joined for the presentation – Jan Lambert, Charlestown; Matt Maki, Claremont; John Streeter, Charlestown.

Patricia Crocker, Staff

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Heatley convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M. with introductions.

Adopt Minutes

Absent a quorum the minutes of March and January could not be approved. Minutes will be held until the next meeting.

Presentation – Laurie Callahan on Aquatic Invasive Species

Laurie Callahan, an Aquatic Biologist, has been working on Aquatic Invasive Species for a number of years. She has been awarded a grant by the State of Vermont through the Windham County Vermont Natural Resources District. They began around the Brattleboro area through Springfield and now into Weathersfield. They are focusing on and checking for Water Chestnut and harvesting when it is found on the Connecticut River main stem and other ponds in the watershed. Water chestnut is the main focus, but checking for other invasive aquatic species will also be included.

Laurie had members review her visual display. She invited them to disseminate information and participate in some of the survey work and activities that she is involved with. This includes training for some of those outings and helping participants recognize invasive plants. The work also includes water chestnut harvesting. Work has been done around the Hinsdale area and has been making great progress. Each plant is generated by a single seed and can regenerate annually for more than a decade making the work a long-term commitment.

North Springfield Lake is where another CT River Watershed water chestnut infestation has been identified. Typically the plants are harvested in mid-July as they are just beginning to flower. The limitations on access were reviewed. Laurie encourages stewardship organizations to adopt a boat launch and provide information about the threats of invasive species. Both states have laws on the books. They are actively enforcing for clean, drain, and dry motor and non-motor craft. Whether it is a plant, mud, or animal material, when the craft is cleaned and drained it should be away from the water so that the material cannot get back into the water. Laurie distributed the Vermont and New Hampshire brochures, explaining the law and the requirements in each state.

The sites this year will be from the Ashley Ferry Launch and Wilgus State Park Campground in the Claremont area.

The 4 species of aquatic invasive plants found at CT River sites in VT and NH have been Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, European water nymph (aka European naiad), and water chestnut. She distributed the summary report of the water chestnut sites. Some of the animal species are microscopic in their larval stages and can transmit zebra mussels or Asian clams in as little as a quarter cup of water. She will transmit additional information to the subcommittee on activities that will be taking place this upcoming summer season. Part of the day could include visiting launch sites to review signage at various locations and visit all known public launches in the subcommittee's region.

Permit Review – Plainfield – Route 12 A Emergency Work

The committee reviewed the material provided and supports the proposal from the Town of Plainfield as they have outlined in the letters transmitted. The committee supported keeping the road open with a single lane and a bio-engineered method for bank stabilization as opposed to temporary rip-rap as a solution. Whatever solution is selected, the subcommittee supports the most ecologically effective long-term resolution on this important commuting corridor.

The subcommittee discussed the impacts of impervious surfaces upstream as well as climate change that can dramatically affect the activity downstream.

Water Resources Chapter

Discussion followed on the chapter and looking at what they could do within the available resources. The subcommittee wanted to prioritize 3 or 4 things the group can do and share with the towns. They have a short list of items that will have the greatest impact and interest to the local population. They will table the rest of the discussion until Kelly Stettner is present. The water resources document will be circulated for comment.

Set Date for Septic-Smart Workshop

That coincides with the national Septic Smart Week, which is the middle or third Saturday in September. Representatives reach out to other local non-profits and businesses and invite industry representatives and state officials to demonstrate their products and inform on regulations. The 21st of September was suggested and the site this year will be in New Hampshire as it was held in Hartland, Vermont in 2018. The Charlestown Old Town Hall was suggested as a site. Staff will inquire about the use and availability 9 to Noon approximately.

Updates – BRAT Submitted in Writing

The update provided was reviewed and briefly discussed. Approximately 2,000 people were reported to have attended Herrick's Cove event. The official count was 1750 but more were present. NRCS in VT is going to find ways to help farmers improve soil quality with cover crops to retain top soil.

Other Business

Schedule the next meeting for July 9, 2019 from 7 to 9 p.m. Staff will send nomination forms to Lambert and Streeter for nomination as Charlestown representatives. The subcommittee will reach out to member towns in order to stress the importance of a quorum in conducting business.

Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Minutes prepared by P.Crocker