

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee
 Minutes
 Thursday, October 18, 2018
 5:30PM
 Littleton Community Center,
 Littleton, NH

CRJC's mission is to preserve the visual and ecological integrity and sustainable working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley, and guide its growth and development through grassroots leadership. Five local river subcommittees carry out this work with a corps of over 100 volunteers.

Attendance

Lancaster	Bob Elwell		Monroe	Ken Hunter		Guildhall	
Lancaster			Monroe			Guildhall	
Dalton	Michael Crosby		Bath	Rick Walling	X	Lunenburg	
Dalton	Gal Potashnick	X	Bath			Lunenburg	
Littleton	Jim Sherrard		Haverhill	Pauline Corzilius	X	Concord	Deborah Noble
Littleton	Jan Edick	X	Haverhill	Dale Lewis		Concord	
Waterford			Barnet	Bill Graves	X	Ryegate	Mary Dole
Waterford			Barnet			Ryegate	
Newbury	Ami L. Norton						
Newbury							

Mary Edick (Visitor, Littleton)
 Michael Nocky (Visitor, Littleton)
 Kimberly Jensen (VT DEC)
 Olivia Uyizeye (UVLSRPC Staff)

Minutes

- 1) Welcome and Introductions

Introductions made all around.

- 2) Presentation by Kimberly Jensen (VT DEC) on aquatic invasive species

Attached to these minutes can be found the presentation slides and handouts.

Jensen is a biologist by training. Jensen discusses what defines invasive species through an interactive discussion: non-native, no natural controls, aggressive, lack of predators, able to move. In NH these are known as “exotics”, while in VT these are known as “invasives”. Invasives can often act as monocultures that can cause mechanical/financial problems, food chain disruption, and water quality impacts. Common invasives in the region include Water Chestnut and European Milfoil. Hydrilla

has been recently found in the Connecticut portion of the CT River. Some invasives are endangered in the regions they are native to.

Blue green alga is not an invasive, but rather a single celled organism that grows in nutrient excess waters. VT DEC employs two people specifically for the problem of blue green algae.

Prevention (through monitoring, such as the VT Invasive Patrollers) and education (through signage at boat access points, greeter programs, and decontamination sites) are the most effective forms of management. For species, such as milfoil, the goal of eradication has proved unattainable through both mechanical and chemical management schemes. There is some indication that chemical treatments have caused a reduction in species diversity, although it is unclear if this is a direct or indirect impact. Alternatively, water chestnut can be removed through mechanical harvesting and hand pulling with the achievable goal of eradication. This differs with milfoil is largely due to the fact that water chestnut is an annual; however, the seeds remain viable for about 9 years, so must be monitored and managed during the length of this time. Biocontrol is another management option. Beetle larvae have been applied to European milfoil at a high cost. Unfortunately, the fish love to eat them so it was not effective. Jensen states that there might be some potential for this method in the shoreline/buffer areas.

Members ask questions to Jensen:

- In general, do plants spread in the natural movement of the stream (downstream), unless mechanically moved upstream? Generally, this is true; however, it is not always the case. Some plants can travel upstream through eddies, surface current, or backlog from dams.
- Do animals transport the plants? There is an understanding that birds might be moving water chestnut. Phragmites also is spread in this way.
- How will climate change impact invasives? This is a big challenge and complicated.

Jensen encourages those that are unsure if a certain plant is invasive, to take a sample and send it in to VT DEC for identification. Jensen also asks the subcommittee to support surveying, outreach and other efforts on invasives.

3) Approve Meeting Minutes from July 19, 2018

Graves makes a motion to review the minutes

Corzilius seconds.

Discussion is opened up for comment.

A motion is made to approve the minutes as they are.

Vote passes unanimously.

4) Permit Reviews

Walling gives a brief overview of two permits that have passed their comment period. The first was an Alteration of Terrain Permit in Lancaster NH by A B Logging. The second was a Standard Dredge and Fill Application in Haverhill NH by the NH Department of Transportation.

5) Election of Chairperson and Representative Outreach

No members indicate an interest in taking on the chair position at this time.

Members discuss the importance of continuing to bring in representatives where needed. Uyizeye will add a table at the top of minutes to remind members of open seats. Corzilius asks for a blurb to support outreach. Members agree to send items to be included in a blurb to Uyizeye who will draft these comments into an outreach notice and bring to the next meeting in January.

6) Other Updates

Uyizeye shares Jim McClammer's description of the activities being undertaken in relation to Great River Hydro and FERC (see attached).

Walling reviews a letter from FERC in relation to the Fifteen Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project (see attached).

7) Other Business

Uyizeye notifies the subcommittee of 360 copies of both the Homeowner's Guide for Water Quality Protection and Shoreline Buffer fact sheet. The CRJC Commissioners have tasked the subcommittees to distribute these to public places in their representative towns. The members are asked to take 25-30 copies of each for each town they will distribute to. All material was taken for distribution and all towns have been accounted for.

Discussion of topics for the subsequent meeting. Walling will inquire with the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) to present about the conservation plan update.

Walling asks the subcommittee to give a letter of support for a conservation easement project by the Chamberland family with 3,000 feet of property along the CT River. This property will create a contiguous protected area of approximately 500 acres. The letter of support would be used in grant and other fundraising activities.

Edick makes a motion to have a letter of support written for the project. Corzilius seconds .

The vote passes unanimously with Walling and Potashnick abstaining.

Uyizeye will draft a letter of support with details provide by Walling. The letter will be sent to the subcommittee over email for any last comments.

8) Adjourn

Corzilius motions to adjourn.
Potashnick Seconds.
The vote passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Next Meeting:
January 17, 2019
Littleton Community Center
5:30PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye