



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, July 9th, 2019
 Windsor Welcome Center
 7:00PM

Minutes

Attendees

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

John Streeeter (Charlestown), Olivia Uyizeye (staff, UVLSRPC)

Minutes

1. Heatley opened the meeting at 7pm. Introductions were made.

2. Minutes.

The minutes from January and March 2019 were opened for review by Manner/Merritt.

The January and March minutes were approved by motion of Merritt/Howland and unanimous vote.

3. Permit Review.

Route 12 landslide in Plainfield. Taylor gives an update on the situation. The state has said that the repairs and permits will take a while, likely not completed until next year. There was consideration to move the road with permission from the landowner, but it was decided against. Since this was an emergency, CRJC was not consulted in the permit process. At the previous meeting reps were encouraged to send in comment on repairs, as there was no quorum. There is concern for this road at other points along the river. Manner notes that the explanation of options and decision of preferred choice was well prepared.

4. Chair.

Heatley informs the reps that she must resign as chair due to work commitments. The reps thank Heatley for her time and commitment.

Discussion is had on nominating a new chair. Stettner and Heatley note that there are various options, including nominating co-chairs and having a yearly chair rotation. Reps request time to consider the chair position. Uyizeye will disseminate a notice to the group.

Motion is made by Taylor/Stettner to accept Heatley's resignation. The motion passes by unanimous vote.

Motion is made by Taylor/Manner to appoint Stettner as an interim chair and send a notice to all reps to consider the nomination of a permanent chair. The motion passes by unanimous vote.

5. Septic Smart Workshop

Uyizeye reports that the Old Town Hall in Charlestown is confirmed and paid for on September 21, 8am-1pm.

Discussion on speakers. Graham (VTDEC), Steve (Septic Pro) and Brian (HB) have presented in the past. They are consistent and have a good flow together. There is agreement among reps to invite them. It is suggested that another rep from NHDES would be beneficial to explain differences in regulation between two states, especially since the event will take place in Charlestown, NH. Stettner offers to reach out.

Drinks and donuts are typically offered. Speakers are often willing to bring these items with them. Stettner will ask.

The event typically lasts 2.5 hours with breaks. It is a popular event, often with repeat attendees. Speakers are often willing to answer questions during and after. They often bring educational materials to put on tables. Reps remark that the speakers are good at not using the event like a tradeshow to promote their unique business.

The flyer needs to be updated and circulated. Uyizeye offers to do this.

Reps are asked to circulate the event notice to their networks, including real estate professionals who can share it with clients who may be interested.

6. BRAT Update – Kelly Stettner

Bioblitz will be held at Hoyt's Landing for events to take place at a relaxed pace over a few days – afternoon, evening and morning. Please, no dogs. The event will also be promoting the use of i-naturalist and talking about trees as habitat for birds.

July 26 – Stettner is leading a field outing with dragonfly society members

July 18 – Event at the great hall in Springfield VT to discuss cyanobacteria, which has already caused beach closures this season.

July 17 – Stettner and colleague will be presenting about a new AIS, Japanese Butterbur, at the Woodstock Conservation Commission. It was found on the Ottauquechee River.

Sept 20 – Annual River Cleanup. This year will include a tire cleanup project. There have been discussions with the landowners where a large pile of tires is found on the river bank, some of them likely very embedded. These will be removed, excluding those where removal might destabilize the bank. Discussions will be had with the landowners about planting strategies to help with stabilization and beautification.

A riparian buffer planting in Branch Brook is being planned for next year in collaboration with Trout Unlimited.

Lambert asks about water quality testing that could be done in Claremont. Uyizeye mentions that the City of Claremont Conservation Commission is starting the NH sponsored Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). Uyizeye will tie Lambert into these efforts.

Stettner suggests adding AIS VT patroller program to our next meeting agenda.

7. AIS Update emailed in from Laurie Callahan

1.) I will be leading an aquatic plant/invasive aquatic species survey session on a section of the CT River in Springfield/Charlestown on Sunday, July 28. Time is yet to be determined. The session will last about 2.5-3 hours. I will provide basic aquatic plant identification instruction during the beginning of the session. We will launch from Hoyts Landing in Springfield and paddle upstream for about a mile, up one side and then back down the other side, then returning to Hoyts Landing. If anyone is interested, and to get more info, please contact me (802-258-1877, therivermist@hotmail.com).

2.) I will be scheduling aquatic plant/invasive aquatic species survey sessions on sections of the CT River in vicinity of Wilgus State Park and Ashley Ferry Landing soon. If anyone is interested, and to get more info, please contact me (802-258-1877, therivermist@hotmail.com).

3.) There is a water chestnut survey/search & harvesting session scheduled for the Hinsdale/Vernon water chestnut site for Mon., July 22 from 9:30AM-12:30PM. If anyone is interested, please contact me (802-258-1877, therivermist@hotmail.com).

4.) Due to our level of funding we will not be running the "AIS Info Blitz" at boat launches as was originally planned. The alternative plan is coming together and will probably include asking local river users (or folks recreating on lakes and ponds in the CT River watershed) to provide information about invasive aquatic species information and signage

that is displayed or available at the boat access areas that they are using. I may create a Google form for folks to fill-out and submit or something similar. They will also be able to submit photos. This information will then be able to be used to improve messaging and information at the boat launches - as a start for 2019. If anyone is interested in participating in this, they can contact me (802-258-1877, therivermist@hotmail.com). At the May meeting, interest was expressed in the possible "AIS Info Blitz" improving access AIS information.

Laurie Callahan (mobile: 802-258-1877). Aquatic Biologist/SE VT AIS Project, Coordinator

8. Water Resources Chapter.

The LRS is working on making consensus on priorities from the list of proposed activities generated from prior conversation. It is noted that this path of focusing on education was taken due to the challenging and time intensive nature of rewriting watershed management chapters.

Uyizeye offers to create a survey to inform the discussion at the next meeting. Lambert offers to review the survey.

9. Updates and Other Business

CRJC Commissioners Water Quality Focus. The document about the Commissioner's decision to highlight water quality this year is circulated and discussed. Uyizeye informs the reps that the Commissioners are looking for feedback, interest and current activities on water quality. There is interest in bolstering communication and coordination among the subcommittees and Commissioners. Heatley comments that there is minimal communication at the moment and this would be welcomed. Merritt comments that she appreciates Jim McClammer's attendance (Commissioner Chair) at occasional meetings.

Lull Brook Riparian Buffer Planting. Merritt reports that this is being done with the CRC, especially Ron Rhodes, in consultation with landowners who have agreed to support the planting on their property. One large property was lost due to the unfortunate death of the landowner and the subsequent complicated passing of the estate.

Beavers. Taylor reports about beavers and how they are managed by individuals and communities. A new book, Busy Beaver, is worthwhile. Taylor comments on Skip Lisle (<http://www.beaverdeceivers.com/bio.html>) who was brought in to Plainfield to present on the beaver deceiver method due to a repetitive beaver problem at a culvert near a large Wetland on Hedgehog Rd. After Lisle's presentation, the selectman hired him to implement the device on Hedgehog Rd. The device moves water in the wetland in a way that confuses the beaver and discourages them from making dams. The town is waiting to see how this method works and is hopeful that it will be effective. Lambert comments that she has worked with Lisle previously and how this device can save a town money from repetitive dam clearings. Lambert has also written an article on a project where Lisle worked with the beavers to build a dam of the appropriate size and length of time to rebuild a dam to maintain a fire pond.

10. The next meeting will be held on September 10th at 7:00 PM at the Windsor Welcome Center.

11. Meeting adjourned by motion of Beach/Stettner.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.