

## CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

### Minutes

Thursday, August 15, 2019

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	X	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								

Michael Nocky (Littleton)  
John Fairchild (Barnet)  
Olivia Uyizeye (UVLSRPC Staff)

### Minutes

#### 1) Welcome and Introductions

Introductions made all around. Bill introduces an interested Barnet community member – Fairchild.

#### 2) Approve October Meeting Minutes

Graves opens up the discussion for comments.

A motion is made by Corzilius to approve the minutes as they are. Edick seconds the motion. Vote passes unanimously.

#### 3) Election of Chair

Uyizeye inquires if there are any representatives who would consider stepping in as chair. Uyizeye suggest co-chairs or a rotating chair. Presently, no reps have the time to take on this role.

#### 4) Review if Commissioners Water Quality Focus

Uyizeye explains that the Commissioners have decided to spend 6 months focusing on water quality in the region. They are interested to learn what activities the subcommittees might be performing in relation to this topic and/or if subcommittees might consider exploring a new initiative.

Reps discuss some CRJC context. NH has historically played a bigger role than VT, although VT has many tributaries. VT does use basin planning across the state. Changes to the basin management plans are expected in the coming year. Uyizeye informs the group that she has been in touch with those making the basin plans about visiting the group for a presentation on the changes.

Potashnick notes that there are sampling efforts underway in Dalton. Corzilius notes that she is interested in seeing water quality data in a shared portal. She says that water quality datum are kept in disparate places and it can be challenging to collect a full picture. Graves notes that assessments have been done in the Wells River in the past.

Ammonoosuc is tracked under the NH Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP), which shares data on the NHDES website annually. Potashnick comments that the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) has a mission to keep the watershed clean and support stewardship. ACT might be able to help facilitate a water quality testing training day.

Walling notes that NHDES donates equipment the first year. Certain tests require time sensitive lab transfers, such as e-coli. Corzilius shares that NH and VT have seen multiple dog deaths this year. Corzilius had to instigate the closure of a swim hole in Rumney where a moose was found dead soon after its closing.

Graves asks what schools might be interested in a training program. Corzilius responds that middle and high school age are the most likely due to falling concerns for elementary age students. Interest is often teacher and district dependent. Corzilius notes that community service hours are required at many high schools in the region by the district. This is recommended by the state but not required.

Walling suggests that the group would do best to concentrate on one area with interested parties. The ACT water quality program leader might share with us more information on their program. Potashnick notes that citizen science is big right now among some people, such as outdoor recreators, mobile older adults, etc. UNH is doing more in the area and reps might be able to partner with them or other existing programs.

Graves says that community engagement and outreach is important. He notes that it can be difficult to get involvement outside of the usual attendees. Potashnick and others respond that the following methods can be effective: posting in the local newspaper, online forums, email list serves, event registration can encourage attendance, partner with conservation commissions or with Green Up Day organizers, flyers, town newsletters, etc. The group might also reach out to a town or two up the tributary that is of focus.

Walling says that since this season is coming to a close it would be good for the group to organize for next Spring. The group will need to know the focus (water quality training or testing program), parameters of interest (e.g. temperature, turbidity, pH) and a region to focus on.

Graves asks about Vermont and what kind of sampling efforts are done. Uyizeye responds that she will get more information on both VT and NH sampling efforts, trainings and equipment for the next meeting. Walling notes that the Northwoods Stewardship Center may have resources and is well connected to the teaching community, also CRC. Walling asks that all reps continue to brainstorm and send ideas to Olivia for compilation before the next meeting.

#### 5) Permit Reviews

Walling shares the permit details for a new bridge in Monroe. Reps comment that other permits have come before the group in this area. Reps have an opportunity to review permit materials and no concerns are raised. Walling will inform NHDES that the group has no comment on the proposed work.

#### 6) Other Updates

Edick informs the group that he plans to leave the area in the next year or two and he will be scaling back his involvement. He is working to find a replacement rep. Potashnick shares that Chris Sweeney, who had run for the select board, may be interested as he spends a lot of time on the river.

Uyizeye asks if the group has any conflict to meet on Nov 7 instead of Nov 14. No concerns are raised on changing the meeting date.

#### 7) Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Next Meeting:  
November 7, 2019 at 5:30PM

Littleton Community Center

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye

DRAFT