

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2020

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	Rob Christie	X	Monroe			Guildhall	
Dalton	Michael Crosby		Bath	Rick Walling	X	Lunenburg	
Dalton	Gal Potashnick		Bath			Lunenburg	
Littleton	Jim Sherrard		Haverhill	Pauline Corzilius		Concord	Deborah Noble
Littleton	Jan Edick	X	Haverhill	Dale Lewis		Concord	
Waterford			Barnet	Bill Graves		Ryegate	Mary Dole
Waterford			Barnet	John Fairchild	X	Ryegate	
Newbury	Scott Labun						
Newbury	Marteen Smit (alt)						

Conor Madison (GZA GeoEnvironmental)

Olivia Uyizeye (CRJC Staff)

NO QUORUM

Minutes

1) Welcome and Introductions

Walling starts the meeting at 5:54pm with no quorum. Introductions are made.

2) Permit Reviews

a. Lancaster Culvert Replacement on Country Village Rd

Christie shares plans for the culvert replacement planned, and already permitted, near the senior living center on Indian Brook, a Tier 3 Stream. The Lancaster Conservation Commission reviewed the permit and did not see an issue and affirmed that the work needed to be done. Walling notes that he did not receive this permit in the mail, but will double check to confirm.

b. Permit by Notification – dock replacement in Monroe

Walling shares details on a permit received. The dock replacement was planned for low water and in the same location as the current dock. Walling signed off on this, however, in the recent notification it indicated that there was no LAC sign off. Unclear what happened here that caused an issue.

c. Eversource

Madison orients LRS to permit for their consideration. It is a vegetation maintenance project for non-compliant species that can fall into or interfere with the functioning of the transmission line. This includes red maple and white pine above a certain height. Within the Riverbend area of concern, there is only one line, Q195, scheduled for maintenance and one line, U199, scheduled for inspection. Madison indicates that the mowers tend to ignore shrubs as they do not grow to a height that is a concern, especially wetland shrubs. The brontosaurus mower on steel tracks is not used in areas that are too steep or wet where they might impact wetlands or cause erosion. For those areas, a crew is brought on foot to use chainsaws on the area. The section of concern on Q195 is expected to be done by a crew due to its location in the landscape. Eversource is required to report to town and inform landowners of activity. The U199 line will be inspected by walking and the use of drones to inspect the tops of poles. No herbicides are used in this permit. Fairchild asks what happened when animals are hit by the mower. Madison indicates that he has never heard of this taking place, and thus not being a concern. Madison shares that this maintenance is on a 3-4 year cycle. The next round would require Eversource to again seek a permit.

Walling asks LRS if there are any concerns with Walling signing off on the permit. No concerns are raised. Walling signs the permits for both lines in Dalton and Littleton, NH.

3) Water Quality Testing or Training Program

Walling has done VRAP in other locations, where maintaining the sampling year after years can be difficult, and new volunteers have not been readily available. Walling recommends caution in starting one for the Connecticut River Riverbend section, by starting with a lower number of sampling sites that still represent a sufficient statistical sample. Sampling 8-10 locations can take all day.

Christie asks if there is impact related to collecting this date. Fairchild indicates that if can, informing waters listed as impaired and sites at risk. Communities are not well aware of the importance of water quality testing. Edick notes that advertising and involving boy scouts can be effective and increasing awareness and engagement.

Reps agree to consider possible locations for sampling at the next meeting. Uyizeye agrees to reach out to NHDES for suggested locations.

4) Other Business

a. NH ARM Fund grant

Fairchild mentions the open call for proposals recently circulated. Walling notes that this is a good opportunity for ready proposal. The Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust has received funds in the past for conservation easements.

5) Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.

Next Meeting:

May 21, 2020 at 5:30PM

Littleton Community Center

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye