



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, November 12th, 2019

Windsor Welcome Center

7:00PM

Minutes

Attendees

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

Olivia Uyizeye (staff, UVLSRPC)

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Merritt begins the meeting at 9:05pm and asks everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes

Merritt opens discussion on the minutes from September 2019 meeting. No concerns are raised.

Howland motions to approve the minutes. Taylor seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimous.

3. Permit Review

No permits need to be reviewed at this time. Merritt reminds the group about the NH Wetland Rule change to begin in December. Merritt encourages representatives to attend a meeting where NH Department of Environmental Services will discuss the changes and how it will affect the LRS. The review time will be shorter and it is expected that the CRJC Local River Subcommittees will have to consider their permit review process in order to allow a faster turnaround time for permits. Merritt notes that the new rules have reduced notices to abutters and limited property line setback requirement. Manner asks if the Army Corps of Engineer is involved in the new rule process. No one in attendance knows of any involvement from the Army Corps. Streeter shares his experience with a neighbor who is starting a trucking company, who he asked to create a tree buffer to reduce the noise impact of the vehicles. This was not possible because of the proximity of the parcel to Beaver Brook watershed, part of Charlestown's sources water protection area. Streeter indicates that wetlands rules in NH are more relaxed than in other states, such as Massachusetts.

4. Septic Smart Workshop

Stettner was unable to attend the meeting but shared a debrief of the day to Uyizeye (see attached). Merritt notes that it was a gorgeous day and that this may have affected turn out. There were only a couple in attendance, who were all engaged in the topic. Representatives discuss possible causes and remedies to the low attendance. Manner says that

another location can be tried. Manner also suggests joining the event with another topic, such as well. This is a topic that a lot of people do not know a lot about, and is tangential in nature. Merritt suggests a different date. It does not have to take place during septic smart week. Streeter suggests involving real estate agents and those they know who are actively seeking new residence that might require septic care. Uyizeye suggests partnering with a local group, such as conversation commissions or rotary club who have an additional network to get the word out.

5. Beaver Deceiver Event

Representatives discuss how best to organize this public speaking event where the subcommittee would host Skip Lisle. Uyizeye shares a few articles on his work in Andover NH. Taylor shares the experience of the town of Plainfield NH that used it do better manage a chronic beaver-culvert issue near a wetland. These case studies are attached. The following ideas are shared:

- Partner with a conservation commission
- The regular MARS meeting could host the talk
- Ask a town representative from Andover or Plainfield to attend and share their perspective
- A spring event could be well attended
- Invite road crews and better back road initiative members

6. Rotating Chair

Howland volunteers to chair the next meeting in February.

Merritt asks that representatives inform Olivia if they will or will not be attending so the group is aware whether or not a quorum will be present.

7. Other Updates

Uyizeye shares BRAT updates from Stettner (see attached).

Merritt shares that the Lull Brook tree planning is completed. She notes that it was well organized by Ron Rhodes.

Taylor informs the group that the 12A repair is done, on time and with a new view of the CT River. Taylor also asks whether the LRS might host a speaker on invasive species some time.

8. Adjourn

Manner makes a motion to conclude the meeting. Howland second the motion. The vote passes unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.

BRAT Updates

Good showing at annual cleanup, it spanned several towns and also several days. We have a new "base of operations" that I think is going to be much better than the shopping plaza in years to come, Riverside Middle School. Easy canoe access, easy vehicle access, etc.

With the quick help of Judy Howland, a couple of area churches jumped in to send volunteers with grilling capabilities to grill up hot dogs (donated at the last minute by Black River Produce, buns from VT Bread Co by way of the Springfield Food Co-op), and we had some really good trash haulage including a very old tire dump in the riverbank.

Looking ahead, I'm planning a macroinvertebrate ("river bug") identification workshop hosted by the Springfield HS in March, several paddling trips up the Black River from Hoyt's Landing (where the Black meets the CT River), a possible buffer planting on a headwater stream in Mount Holly, and adding several new sites to our water quality monitoring roster.

Partnering with the Claremont Savings Bank on planting Springfield's first municipal stormwater infiltration site (I'll be letting Jan know some details, hopefully we can connect on this one) in the spring of 2020, if the construction around the site is completed in time.

I'm also starting new partnership projects with both the VT Institute of Natural Sciences and the Grafton Nature Museum, details are in the works over the next several weeks.

Lots more in the works and percolating, but I don't want to overwhelm anyone. :-)

Kelly Stettner

Septic Smart Workshop Recap

We only had a handful of people in the audience (I think 3 or 4), but they were interested and engaged. Cordie and Jan were there (Jan's husband, John, saved our bacon with the projector!), so they might offer an insight or two.

I think a more easily-accessible place (easier to find by the general public) might be better next time; not sure if keeping it at public libraries would be best going forward?

We did get the word out pretty well this time, not sure what we can do differently or better?