

Upper Valley Subcommittee
of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions
February 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Latham Library, Thetford, VT

NH Members:	Present	Absent
Alice Creagh, Hanover, NH	X	
Jim Kennedy, Chair, Hanover, NH	X	
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon, NH		X
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon, NH		X
Bruce Garland, Lebanon, NH (alt)		X
Bill Malcolm, Lyme, NH	X	
Vacancy, Lyme, NH		
Christine Bunten, Orford, NH		X
Carl Schmidt, Orford, NH	X	
Karyn Brown, Piermont, NH		X
Helga Mueller, Piermont, NH		X

VT Members:	Present	Absent
Vacancy, Bradford, VT		
Vacancy, Bradford, VT		
Nancy Jones, Bradford, VT (alt)		X
Ben Dana, Fairlee, VT		X
Vacancy, Fairlee, VT		
Danielle Allen, Fairlee, VT (alt)		X
David Barrell, Hartford, VT	X	
Lynn Bohi, Hartford, VT		X
Jason Houle, Hartford, VT (alt)		X
Tara Bamford, Thetford, VT	X	
Bill Bridge, Thetford, VT	X	
Linda Matteson, Thetford, VT (alt)	X	
Melissa Horwitz, Norwich, VT		X
Vacancy, Norwich, VT		

Others present: Olivia Uyizeye, Staff from UVLSRPC

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kennedy opens the meeting at 7:05pm. Introductions are made.

2. December Meeting Minutes

Kennedy opens up meeting minutes for review and comment.

Bamford makes a motion to approve the minutes as written. Creagh seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous.

3. Permit Review

a. Quail Hollow Phase V, Lebanon, NH, Alteration of Terrain

Kennedy reports about a site visit, with quorum, done with Rod Finley, consultant, for the Quail Hollow AoT permit with culvert replacement (see attached report and draft comment letter to NHDES). Kennedy invites comments on the permit and edits to the comment letter.

- Bamford asks that the letter indicate that the stream discussed is a perennial stream according to the NH hydrography dataset (NHDES source). Kennedy will add the reference.
- Bamford indicates that the permit does not note that it is within a ¼ mile of a designated river and does not discharge to a stream, both of which are inaccurate. Kennedy notes that he will add a paragraph.
- Kennedy notes that there was some missing information on a map.
- Malcolm asks that NHDES look more closely at the proposed process to handle salt, oils and phosphorus, and indicate alternatives in case the proposed plan fails. Kennedy reports that in an out of meeting discussion, Finley said the proposal covers Phosphorus.

- Kennedy raises concerns about the plans for tree removal and treatment of grass and trees as the same time of coverage in relation to infiltration rates. Schmidt shares that a resident and engineer communicated his concern about this during the site visit.
- Malcolm asks that the sentence concerning the garden be removed, as this is an item for resident concern.
- Kennedy adds that he'd like to include a comment about the use of hay, rather than straw, for the landscaping. The preference for straw is to keep out weeds. Kennedy also recommended the use of living shoreline techniques.
- Malcolm expresses concern about the lack of information about the permit shared ahead of time and during the site visit to representatives, not including the chair. Kennedy responds that he will encourage consultants to provide copies at site visits, when they have not been provided in the past. Uyizeye notes that she shares out permit details as a pdf when available. Legally, only the LRS chair needs to be given the full permit by mail.

Kennedy shares that he will be notified when the wetlands permit is submitted. Kennedy will make edits and submit the comment letter with comments incorporated.

b. 729 River Rd, boat house, Lyme, NH

Kennedy shares that this application was not approved and it now has to be resubmitted as a full application.

c. River Rd, Town of Lyme

Kennedy shares that this application is incomplete and does not know the location or full details for the application.

4. VT Basin 14 Plan Draft

Kennedy opens up discussion on the draft Basin 14 plan for LRS comment. Bamford agrees to compose a letter summarizing the following comments

- Bamford indicates that training for road crews is not adequately incorporated and is a priority with potential for significant impact. Kennedy also notes the importance of timing road-side mowing so not to spread the seeds of invasive species.
- Kennedy notes that the plan does not reference the Connecticut River. Bamford clarifies that the river mainstem is not under VT jurisdiction.
- Matteson and Bamford agree that the plan largely looks good, in relation to its coverage of Thetford.

5. NH Wetlands permit process

Kennedy shares a preliminary document that summarizes new wetlands permits that now come to this LRS and require a particularly short turn around time, or the holding up of permits being able to be submitted as an application to NHDES. Kennedy shares his concern about having one, or a group, of reps assigned to review permits and sign off outside of a quorum, without a clear process to guide such a review. Every project has nuances that warrant review under the light of local knowledge.

Reps discuss options for setting a process. Matteson suggests having the chair perform a first review, and when warranted, send out the permit to the full LRS by email where reps can indicate (by direct response) any desire for a meeting to review the permit. Bamford notes that the second method is already done for standard permits when comments are due prior to the next scheduled meeting. Malcolm indicates the importance of circulating documents on permit applications to the full LRS.

Kennedy, with Uyizeye, offers to work up a proposed process to guide outside quorum review and sign off of permits. The final document might also be shared with other LRS to consider. Bamford comments that the process should not be burdensome on the chair.

6. Other Updates & Business

a. Corridor Plan Review

Bamford notes that this will be discussed when there is time on the agenda, possibly at the next meeting in April. Bamford will share some resources with Uyizeye to send out to the LRS prior to that discussion.

b. Lyme Report

Malcolm asks for background on a letter, concerning FERC, he has been asked to read at an upcoming meeting in the Town of Lyme. LRS reps provide Malcolm with a background on the FERC relicensing timeline and CRJC activities in that process.

7. Adjourn

Creagh makes a motion to adjourn. Malcolm seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.