



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, May 12th, 2020

7 PM

Conference Call

Attendees

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

Olivia Uyizeye (staff, UVLSRPC)

Minutes

Chair David Taylor called the meeting, conducted via conference call, to order at 7:05 PM under the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, New Hampshire's Right-to-Know law, as allowed by Emergency Order 11 under Executive Order 2020-04 in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

1. Review of Conference Call Tools and Virtual Meeting Guidelines

Attendees were oriented to zoom conference call features (mute, raise hand, chat room) including key pad phone controls and how to request technical support.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Taylor welcomed all present. Attendees go around introducing themselves.

3. Update on Southeastern VT Aquatic Invasive Species Project, Laurie Callahan

Materials are shared as part of the meeting packet describing proposed work as part of the aquatic invasive species project, pending funding. See attached materials.

4. Permit Review

- a. Ashley Ferry Boat Access Ramp, Claremont, NH- Annual Silt Maintenance Dredging

Uyizeye shares screen to orient reps to the permit, including project map and description. The description states: "Maintenance of a concrete plank boat ramp. The proposed work will consist of removing sediment from the ramp only above and below the water line. No new

disturbed land will be created to perform the dredging and dredge spoils handling activities. Work will be limited to the ramp proper and in the parking lot of the site for dewatering. Dredge spoils will be disposed of off-site outside jurisdictional areas.” Uyizeye describes that this is a standard maintenance permit. Taylor makes a motion to accept the permit. Merritt seconds the motion. By roll call, the motion passes unanimously.

As a point of interest, Streeter asks about any requirement to safe guard the site against petroleum leakage from equipment. Uyizeye indicates that the permit does not indicate this directly, nor is she aware of any existing regulations that would ask equipment be used with biodegradable oil. Uyizeye makes reference to permit project specific conditions, page 2, point 15 that states “No person undertaking any activity shall cause or contribute to, or allow the activity to cause or contribute to, any violations of the surface water quality standards in RSA 485-A and Env-Wq 1700.”

b. C&D Facility, Claremont, NH Updates

Lambert shares that it is not on the next meeting agenda for the zoning board. Lambert expresses concern about having any virtual public meeting to discuss the contentious C&D facility. There could be issues with insufficient access for public attendance.

5. March Meeting Minutes

Stettner shared minor edits. Beach makes a motion to approve the minutes with edits. Manner seconds the motion. By roll call, the vote passes with three abstentions from Streeter, Lambert and Stettner.

6. Special Projects

a. Beaver Deceiver

Taylor opens conversation and updates on beaver deceiver projects. Taylor indicates that Plainfield continues to support and have interest in the technique from experience with an active, functioning beaver deceiver system.

Stettner discusses a possible Weathersfield project. She describes a beaver pond at the foot of Hawk Mountain near route 106, where the water levels are rising and there are growing concerns from residents downstream. Stettner has reached out to the local Conservation Commission and other relevant parties to be informed and involved on the challenge. The state is assessing the 5 ft culvert that is almost completely plugged under Rte 106. From conversations, Stettner indicates that the state is not immediately concerned of any safety risk and would like to safe guard the beaver habitat. When the pond is naturally lowered they want to slowly, methodically remove the debris. Stettner notes that one mile downstream is active wood turtle habitat. Skip Lisle has been there to look at the site for possible beaver deceiver implementation. Two of the adult beavers have been hit by cars. Stettner expresses interest in supporting the installation of a 15 ft box culvert that can maintain the pond with reduced capacity to be blocked again. Lambert expresses concern that implementing a beaver deceiver with a much larger culvert, might then be difficult to install. Lambert indicates that they should further discuss this with Lisle. Stettner would like to work with Lambert on a video segment on

living with beavers. Manner adds that most recently, he has seen that sections of the guard rail on both sides of the highway have been removed. There has now been flooding on the opposite side of the road. Stettner plans to follow up with her state contacts to learn more about the current activity.

Lambert discusses the potential to host a site visit. This could be more engaging and conducive to Lisle's communication style. Lambert suggests that municipalities and interested residents could come and learn about beaver conflict and the beaver deceiver as a method for resolution. Taylor indicates that the site will need to be appropriate for a large group, if on the side of a road. Taylor says that Lisle has been very dedicated and responsive to community needs.

b. Septic Smart Workshop 2020

Representatives engage in a conversation about this year's SepticSmart Workshop as part of SepticSmart Week 2020 to take place September 14-18.

Stettner – Could be done mostly online as a webinar? This would reduce needs for space and snacks. Past event have always received positive review, but last year's had low turnout.

Lambert – Agreed. Some people prefer the webinars.

Streeter – The Zoom webinar allows for attendance up to 100. The organizer has full screen control. We can invite people to join at different times, depending on the topic.

Stettner and Lambert – Both have found recent webinars they have attended to be very dynamic. This could lead to higher involvement and allow the LRS to record the meeting and share afterwards.

Taylor – A webinar might be especially useful if things maintain as they are with the pandemic and social distancing. It might be necessary.

Lambert – A webinar might be the way to go anyways.

Uyizeye – Zoom is one good option it seems, but there are other platforms with different features. Can do some research on platform options for a webinar.

Streeter – Many communities have cancelled events through the summer and even into fall.

Merritt – Is there potential to do it on a weekday rather than a weekend?

Streeter – Could do a series of brown bag lunches for every day of the week where people can join as they like for different topics each day.

Taylor – There is general agreement that this is valuable to the community.

Stettner – People are always really grateful.

Lambert – People may be more interested and available to attend than in recent years.

c. Stormwater management and/or riparian buffers

Uyizeye and Lambert share updates on the riparian buffer planting in Claremont organized by Lionel Chute from the Sullivan County Conservation District. Almost 500 plants were installed, including many edibles. Chute and the landowner had to adapt to social distancing requirements, resulting in the loss of support from some local groups, such as schools. Lambert is working on an article on the topic for the Valley Green Journal. Lambert expresses that there is always good enthusiasm for these types of projects.

Lambert gives an update on the Charlestown beautification coalition. Lambert had approached the group about managing stormwater infiltration and installing attractive planting. The coalition is now in conversation with the selectboard. The project might be a great educational and town model because it is right along Main Street. The technique has become increasingly popular in recent years. Streeter adds that parts of route 12 and depot st have never been able to get the drainage working right. There are a lot of impervious services. Streeter expresses interest to see how this method could be of used in this area near the dollar general. Lambert adds that the coalition is also looking at removing pavement around utility poles and planting gardens

7. Other Business

Taylor shares a story about fishing on the Connecticut River and indication from a local fisherman that they have never seen so many fish. Taylor notes that it's good to see the river healthy. It's been high much of the spring because of the rain we've had. Howland shares that she has seen lots of vehicles in a nearby fishing area.

8. Adjourn

Taylor adjourns the meeting at 8:10pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

7pm