



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 13th, 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); Rebecca MacKenzie (resident, Claremont)

Minutes

1. Review of Virtual Meeting Guidelines

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.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Taylor welcomed all present. Attendees and visitors introduced themselves and provided local updates.

- Merritt – Recently saw a black bear mom and three cubs in her backyard.
- Metivier – Working on a white ash tree management plan for Windsor. Manner recommends connecting to the man in Weathersfield who did their assessment. Beach says he also helped produce a cost estimate.
- O’Neill – Managing her trail system, including Top of the World view of Mt Ascutney (301 Lang Rd, Cornish). It is very busy and close to St. Gaudens.
- Howland – Her brother was bushhogging a field in front of her home who got a video of a coyote. Howland also saw a red fox eating some chicken bones.
- Lambert – Found a leaf sample from the mother tree of the chestnut seedlings she had talked about last week. The mother is indeed pure American Chestnut that has pretty high interest. Also thinks she might have found the father tree. Looking to start a watershed group with MacKenzie for the Sugar River.
- MacKenzie – Joined the meeting a year or so ago. Watersheds are very important to her. Working on a project that encompasses Claremont and Lake Sunapee watershed. MacKenzie received a wonderful activity book for children on watersheds that she plans to adapt to the local watershed and resilience. Looking at “watershed discipleship” which highlights the study and valuing of those waters around you.
- Manner – Interested in an update on the beaver deceiver work that Kelly Stettner was following. The equipment is now gone, so he imagines they have finished.

- Beach – Working on the emerald ash borer management plan for Weathersfield.
- Uyizeye – Enjoying the sugar river with her daughter.
- Taylor – Plainfield hired Skip Lisle to install 2 new beaver deceivers. Success from the first installed is encouraging for these next two. Taylor has also been seeing bears around Plainfield, including hearing about 4 yearlings on a hot tub.

3. *Permit Review*

Nothing at this time.

Taylor has not seen any work done on the Cornish covered bridge that the LRS had previously supported.

4. *July Meeting Minutes*

Taylor opens up meeting minutes for review. Lambert notes that “report” should be “rapport” on the Charlestown beautification project. Manner makes a motion to approve the minutes with edits. Howland seconds the motion. By roll call, the motion passes unanimously.

5. *Special Projects*

a. *Septic Smart Workshop 2020 Recap*

- Uyizeye – The workshops were cancelled due to difficulty in scheduling speakers. Stettner, Lambert and she had discussed making pre-recorded videos that can be watched at any time.
- Lambert – She had been in touch late with Roger Tardiff who is willing to work on a presentation for another time either pre-recorded or all in one event.
- Taylor – Encourages furthering this idea of an online program. Perhaps a spring one night event.
- O’Neill – Likes that these can be recorded and made available to real estate agents or new residents. Expect we will be meeting online for quite a while.
- Lambert – Enjoys meeting via zoom and can be discouraging when events have low turnout.
- Howland – Asks who are the Vermont contacts
- Manner – Indicates there are those who are previous presenters.
- Uyizeye – Stettner contacted VT but did not get a response.
- Merritt – Graham Bradley was the one that presented in a previous year. Merritt is willing to help make the phone calls for a VT speaker.

General agreement that this is important. O’Neill references two videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkxUZRykWcw> Septic Safe 3 min video from NH DES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABSoNabFnDQ> Vermont Septic Smart video

6. *Other Business*

a. *Community Article*

- Uyizeye – She will be drafting an article for member review, but asks for any initial input.
- Metivier – Suggests discussing in-migrations concern for the region. What that will this mean for the river especially in post-COVID?
- Taylor – Demographics shifts are happening. People are seeking out an escape from urban areas, even students living off campus, setting up smaller social groups.
- Beach – References VT S237 just passed requiring communities to allow higher density where municipal water and sewer are available. Beach wonders about potential implication for the watershed, particularly around impervious surfaces.

b. *City of Claremont proposed construction and debris facility*

- Lambert emphasizes the benefit of the previous letter to the City Claremont raising concerns about the construction and debris facility that had been proposed and has now again asked for a hearing to move forward.
- MacKenzie – Explains she is getting the word out that this has come up again to these who were previously involved. Also, circulating a petition for those who were concerned. Appreciated the letter expressing concerns about the project (<https://www.valleygreenjournal.com/home/a-better-claremont/> Find the letter from the LRS here...). Mackenzie will be posting updates on “A Better Claremont” facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Public-Service/A-Better-Claremont-108329824154553/>

c. Beaver Deceiver

- Lambert expresses interested to continue working to highlight the beaver deceiver work done by Skip Lisle.
- Taylor – Argues that the word will get around about Skip’s work. It does not just save the town money, but saves beavers. Taylor will contact sources at the Valley News about what Skip is working on for Plainfield.
- O’Neill – suggests highlighting the water quality that our communities and watershed need.

7. Adjourn

O’Neill makes a motion to adjourn. Beach seconds the motion. By roll call, the motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.