

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

Minutes

Thursday March 18th, 2021

5:30PM

Conference Call

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

Olivia Uyizeye (CRJC Staff)

Minutes

1. Welcome & Recap of Public Meeting Guidelines

Chair Walling called the meeting, conducted via conference call, to order at 5:45 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. Chair Walling conducted a roll call of LAC members, invited any guests to introduce themselves, and welcomed all present.

2. Meeting Minutes from December

Walling opens meeting minutes up for review. Labun makes a motion to accept the minutes as written. Piper seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Permit Reviews

a. Standard Dredge and Fill, Portland Pipeline, Lancaster, 2021-00299

Lancaster Conservation Commission, Christie explains that they have done a site visit. They are concerned about the proximity of the work to the Israel River, however, generally satisfied with the application. Christie makes a motion to send a comment letter noting no comment. Graves seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

b. Wetlands Permit, McWayne property, Littleton, NH

Walling explains this is a sign off application, no comment opportunity. Littleton Conservation commission, spoken to by Walling, explains that they did not see any glaring issues. Walling notes that he sees this as a reasonable design for the pond. An application put together by Jim Kennedy, who is the previous chair of the Upper Valley LRS, with a good track record. Piper makes a motion to sign off. Graves seconds the motion. Noble comments that the work would result in loss of wildlife habitat. Walling responds that he agrees, however the work appears to be well done within the project goals. The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

c. DRAFT Renewal Minor NPDES Discharge Permit 3-1382 Ryegate Fire District 2

Piper reviewed the permit, and did not note any major concerns. Graves explains that when this initially installed it was a cutting edge technology. Graves makes a motion to submit no comment. Piper seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

d. Approved with Conditions. Moore Dam Powerhouse Permit

Walling notes that this work is supposed to increase the efficiency of electrical production without any expected disturbance to the terrain. Piper explains that the work is on the VT side of the river, although it is actually in NH because of changes to the river path, but not changes to the state boundary. Piper explains that he does not see any reason to be concerned.

e. Wetland PBN Notice – Monroe

Walling explains that he looked at three of these sign off applications. Two of them looked fine from review of the engineering and design, and signed off. Third one did not meet specification, as was not parallel to the river and was 10 feet longer than allowed. Walling did not sign off and also contacted NHDES. NHDES noted that dock permits are not currently in our purview, but is likely to switch back at some point. Walling explains his perspective on docks. If LRS can get folks to build steps or gravel pathway down to dock, than it is a whole lot better than creating a dirt path or other that can cause erosion. If people are using the river, they might be willing to take a protective attitude.

4. Other Business

a. FEMA study and update for Headwaters Connecticut River Watershed, including Lancaster and Lunenburg

FEMA is updating the floodplain mapping and is inviting input into their scoping of the research phase. If there are areas of concerns, members can submit comments through the provided worksheet.

b. Water Quality Testing

Uyizeye discusses both on site and lab based testing and looks to confirm who will be sampling where and whether to outreach for additional volunteers to meet goals. Uyizeye will provide a link to a document summarizing project goals and sampler responsibilities as previously

discussed. She recommends doing lab samples downstream of the Ammonoosuc as it is currently listed as impaired. Christie suggests lab sampling to be done downstream of the Israel River due to an abundance of campgrounds. Noble suggests downstream of the Passumpsic river, a large tributary with multiple smaller tributaries that feed into it. There is also a waste water treatment plants that has combined sewer over flow system. Piper agrees with Noble. Christie also notes that he is in touch with a science teacher at a local school who is interested to support sampling during the school season, if there is any testing to be done close to the Israel River.

c. Outreach & Speaker Series

Uyizeye says the campaign is going well and reminds members that the first event on the Connecticut River as a wildlife corridor is March 23. The event will allow for brief update from subcommittees, if anyone attends who would like to speak to the group's activities.

d. Additional

Walling explains that a small committee is looking at the dam on the Bethlehem. Furthest upstream dam that feeds into the Connecticut River from the Ammonoosuc. That would be a good project, not for public consumption yet. Would be of great help and would improve water quality for the Ammonoosuc.

Uyizeye describes commissioner work on climate migration and will share a recent talk by master's students, as well as an upcoming event on May 19th for those interested.

5. Adjourn

Piper makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Noble seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2021

5:30PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye