



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Thursday, December 6, 2021

7 PM

Windsor Welcome Center and Conference Call

Attendees

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

In Person: Olivia Uyizeye (staff, UVLSRPC)

Virtual: Erin Darrow (Right Angle Engineering)

NO QUORUM PRESENT. *In person attendance from at least half of communities with representatives is required to meet a quorum.*

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair David Taylor calls the meeting to order at 7:25PM. Taylor welcomes all present. Attendees and visitors introduce themselves.

2. July Meeting Minutes

Due to lack of quorum, minutes review is postponed to the next meeting.

3. Permit Review

a. Erin Darrow, River Road bank stabilization Plainfield

Uyizeye introduces as the engineer tasked with designing bank stabilization for a section of bank along the Connecticut River in Plainfield on their River Road.

Darrow begins to explain a design to stabilize a 315 foot stretch of bank, showing a video of the area from the river. There are two live white pines, one on each end of the impacted area. There is a bank undercut that goes under one of the travel lanes, where the town has modified access to only a single lane for safety concerns. The road sees frequent use by heavy loads of sap, maple syrup and dairy. Darrow has seen similar issue up and down the river along River Roads.

Darrow explains that the owner of the land on either side of the road at this location is concerned about impacts to their front yard and leasing of nearby farm fields. The road cannot be moved much without entering a situation of eminent domain.

Darrow continues. Along this section of the bank there is very little vegetation and a very steep slope. Darrow's recommended design to the town involved filling the bank and undercut with large riprap that would extend 2 feet above the normal high water mark. Coco Turf would be used along the banks top to establish dome cover. If any plantings were to be done, Darrow would look to native species within the immediate vicinity; however, doing this would require a good amount of watering due to the riprap below the turf. This is a similar strategy as was done along 12A next to the vet clinic further south.

Taylor indicates that other sections of Road have acquired an easement from the property owner to move the road further from the River and it is unfortunate this is not available for this situation. Darrow responds that the property owner feels this would be a big impact. Further, there are 5 feet of land within the area before the utility lines that can be worked with.

Darrow describes that this project will cost approximately one million dollars. She is working with the Town to raise funds from sources such as NRCS and FEMA during 2022 with construction to be done in 2023.

Beach asks if filter fabric is a part of the design. Darrow responds that yes, this would be use to help stabilize the slope behind it and keep fine silts from floating away when the water rises.

Gallagher asks if the cause of the problem is known. Darrow responds that the issue seems to primarily come from the river with some concern from runoff. The dams are a contributing factor due to the high fluctuations impacting this area. In order to perform the bank survey, the team had to go out over 3 days because the river level changes so quickly.

Lambert highlights that more work needs to happen to get at the root of these erosion problems, particularly concerns related to the amount of water flowing from upland and upstream areas rather than infiltrating. Darrow agrees and adds that communities will continue to fix emergencies until the underlying issues are taken care of. For example, Darrow discusses the impact of logging on erosion and runoff even when state requirements are followed, such as leaving in stumps.

Darrow asks if the subcommittee would support a grant application for the project. Members indicate they would consider support at that time and encourage Darrow to return then with a project update and specific request.

Darrow owns Right Angle Engineering and welcomes member to reach out to her at (603) 526-2807 / info@rightangle.engineering

4. Updates & Other Business

a. Town/Member Updates

Metivier shares that the Town of Windsor has applied for a grant for urban forestry. This is an opportunity to acquire resources to better manage the urban trees in Windsor. If received, there may also be opportunities along the Connecticut River that may warrant further conversation with this subcommittee.

Members discuss the specific issue of the emerald ash borer that continues to spread. Hartford, Windsor, Weathersfield, and Hartland are all noted as having done studies of their ash trees. Merritt emphasizes the importance of this study to begin to grapple with the funding needed to cope with dead/dying trees. Beach explains that the utilities have raised money to take down sections of tree that impact the utility lines, however the whole tree will not always be removed, which leaves them for the town to deal with. Taylor encourages all communities to do a study on this topic.

Manner informs the group that the J&L building in Springfield has been going through its demolition. It is amazing to see how much is torn down. The two ends of the building remain as they were considered stable. Stettner follows that she is looking at doing some study of river bed critters that may provide information on possible ground water contamination flowing from that site.

Stettner also notes that the Basin 10 tactical basin plan is circling back with updates on data and possible projects. Marie Caduto is the planner for this basin.

Lambert notes that Charlestown is still trying to adjust to the changes caused by the rainstorm this past summer causing major road damage. The town has just about finished fixing roads all around town that are town maintained. The closure along route 12 is still causing issues, especially with the school buses. Lambert also notes that Acworth was severely impacted by this storm.

b. Speaker topics of interest

Uyizeye informs the group that the last riverwide speaker event on water quality and green infrastructure is being planned for January and a flyer will be sent out soon. The CRJC has approved the continuation of the series and invites members to share speaker requests any time.

c. Meeting schedule & hybrid setup

Uyizeye informs the group that she will not be attending all meetings in person due to budget and COVID concerns. The hope is to attend at least one, and potentially 2 meetings a year in person. The rest will have staff participate virtually. Uyizeye asks if any members are willing to work with her to setup the in person-virtual connection with the Windsor Welcome center. As no members immediately volunteer, Uyizeye notes she will follow up when sending out the notice for the next meeting in the New Year.

d. Commissioners Update

No updates at this time.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourns at 8:27PM, O'Neill/Beach.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.