

CRJC Upper Valley Subcommittee Minutes

Monday, July 19, 2021

"Hybrid" Meeting - In-person at Hartford Library and also Zoom Videoconference

Participating:

At the Hartford Library:

Bill Malcolm, Chair, Lyme
Linda Matteson, Thetford
Lynn Bohi, Hartford
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon
Bruce Garland, Lebanon, joined the meeting during agenda item 3.d.

Via Zoom:

Tara Bamford, Thetford
Ben Dana, Fairlee
Ted Cooley, Orford
Staff
Olivia Uyizeye, UVLSRPC, was present for the beginning of the meeting to help get things started.

1. Chair Bill Malcolm called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
2. The minutes of May 17, 2021 were approved by all as presented by motion of Bamford/Matteson.
3. Permit Review
 - a. Shoreland Application, 711 Lyme River Rd, Lyme (App#: 2021-02035, Extended Comment 7/22)

Bamford summarized the best practices for draining a pool that were published by NHDES in its Sampler newsletter. These included draining the pool slowly to the ground after making sure the chlorination level is below 0.1 milligrams per liter and the pH is near neutral, 6-8. Malcolm asked if this could be something the Subcommittee adopts as a policy for comments on future pool applications. By motion of Bamford/Bohi all voted to adopt this as a policy and to ask NHDES to include it in permit conditions for this application. Bamford will send Malcolm the language from the NHDES publication for the content of the letter.

- b. Shoreland Application, 58 East Wilder Rd, West Lebanon (App#: 2021-01131)
Summary: Construction of 3100 square feet home and Sewage Disposal System.

This application was incomplete. By motion of Agterberg/Matteson all voted to support Malcolm telling NHDES that we will comment when it is complete.

- c. Special Permit, Herbicide Use in Piermont, CRC (App#: 21-285; Comment 7/11)

Malcolm reviewed a past letter from the Subcommittee containing the previous Chair's recommendations regarding herbicide use. It was agreed that while our comments should be informed by the previous Chair's wealth of knowledge, some of the comments may be too site- specific to apply to other herbicide applications.

Cooley expressed his interest in a site visit as a learning opportunity on management of invasives and offered to arrange a visit and be the lead on the permit comments. He will report back after the site visit. By motion of Agterberg/Bohi all voted to support this plan.

d. Special Permit, Herbicide Use in Orford, Murray (App#: 21-311; Comment 7/9)

It was observed that this application seems to be identical to one the Subcommittee commented on last year. At that time alternative approaches to poison ivy were encouraged. It is unclear whether last year's herbicide treatment never happened or if the poison ivy was sprayed and it was ineffective or were two successive years planned all along. By motion of Bamford/Garland all voted to support Malcolm writing a letter asking these questions and reiterating the comments from last year.

e. Special Permit, Herbicide Use in Lebanon, Waste Water Treatment Plants (App#: 211- 331; Comment 7/31)

Garland offered to go look at the sites and report back. Garland will assist Malcolm with a letter following his site visit. By motion of Cooley/Bamford all voted to support this approach.

f. Wetlands Application, Updated from 2019, Lyme-Thetford Bridge Rehabilitation, NHDOT

Bamford offered to look at the Subcommittee's previous comments and review the application and update the comments if necessary. By motion of Malcolm/Garland all agreed with this approach.

g. Wetlands Permit, two livestock crossings, Winsome Farm, Piermont, NH (App#: 2021-01344)

Malcolm offered to send comments regarding best practices for animal husbandry and expressing support for constructing these crossings to get the cows away from the brook. By motion of Bamford/Matteson all voted in favor.

4. Other Permit Communications

Wetland Permits, 3 culverts on River Road, Town of Lyme

Malcolm reported that he went and looked at these sites with town staff. He observed that two culverts were just moving water across the road in relatively flat spots but one is more of a ravine where the drop may make bank erosion an issue. The potential impacts of the perched culvert on aquatic organism passage was discussed. Malcolm felt that this may not be an issue because the culvert appeared to be carrying stormwater runoff rather than a perennial stream. Cooley also mentioned the importance of the culverts being sized large enough for the future. Malcolm mentioned that NHDES doesn't require hydrology studies to determine the proper size of culverts. Malcolm offered to write a letter incorporating Cooley's

input. By motion of Cooley/Agterberg all voted in favor of this approach.

5. Updates & Other Business

- a. LRS Water Quality Update - Agterberg reported that his wife volunteered to do the sampling below the Mascoma and White Rivers, near the I89 construction. She will be doing the second sampling soon.
- b. Commissioners Update - Bamford reported on the CRJC Annual Meeting held in June. She said the budget and workplan were on hold while staff assistance needs were reevaluated. There is no contract yet with UVLSRPC. Commissioners had concerns about UVLSRPC billing over \$5,000 more than budgeted in FY21. Bamford added that Vermont funding was restored and she felt that should help CRJC develop a more realistic budget for the coming year.

Other business - Malcolm had collected member's comments on the bridge over the railroad in West Lebanon. Bamford had recommended citing CRJC's recreation plan and Chet Clem had sent detailed comments Malcolm felt were beyond our scope. Malcolm was unable to get the letter out to members for comment when he had hoped. He explained the point in the process is the NEPA scoping. Garland expressed his concerns that the bridge may be being planned over a railway that won't ever be used again, especially if the development planned for the property goes through. He felt it could be filled in more cheaply. There was discussion about NHDOT's policy of retaining rail corridors for possible rail use in the future. Malcolm offered to write a letter expressing the Subcommittee's interest in seeing the bridge include pedestrian access. By motion of Garland/Cooley all voted in favor.

Website - Agterberg mentioned that the CRJC website is down and that previously it was routed to another site. Bamford said it is down because of this hack and is being worked on to address the problem.

Malcolm mentioned the need to think about meeting policies and a location. He will send out a memorandum before the next meeting

Malcolm presented a revised Project and Permit Application Review policy that he feels better complies with NH's Right to Know law. The revised policy was approved by all by motion of Bamford/Bohi.

Malcolm next presented an approach provided by Tracie Sales at NHDES that would enable the Subcommittee to adopt standard comments for certain types of applications and to submit comments on certain minimal impact projects between meetings. It was agreed to consider this and put it on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Bamford said she thought the previous Chair's letters would be the best resource for determining if some standardization is possible.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. by motion of Garland/Cooley.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford