

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

Minutes

Thursday July 1, 2021

6:30PM

Hybrid Meeting – Littleton Community Center & Zoom 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)

All attendees are present in person

Minutes

1. Welcome

Walling starts the meeting at 6:33pm and asks everyone to introduce themselves. All members present are in person, no attendees via the virtual option.

2. Meeting Minutes from March

Walling opens the minutes for review. Piper makes a motion to accept the minutes. Walling seconds the motion. No comments or edits are made. The motion passes unanimous.

3. Permit Reviews

a. DPC Special Permit (21-270) invasive species management with Rodeo and Milestone (Matt Bosiak, ANR contact, comment due July 23)

Walling opens up the permit for discussion. Members review permit summary and map of sites along the Upper Connecticut. Walling suggests stressing best management practices and to inquire about methods to be used post treatment. It is suggested to ask how landowners are being notified of treatment. Corzilius notes that the timing would likely leave bare soil during the winter.

Members discuss alternative methods for knotweed management, such as black plastic covering for a couple of years of animals, such as goats.

Corzilius makes a motion to submit a comment letter reflecting concerns discussed. Edick seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous.

b. Shoreland Permit (2021-01858, Monroe Rd, Littleton

This permit is to construct a new driveway to a 4 bedroom home with attached garage, deck and septic system. Walling shares a map and documents received via certified mail of the permit. Corzilius expresses concern that the septic system is not of a sufficient size, especially on the slopes illustrated. Christie references soil type and type/location of system. Driveway will be built using fill, in which case the type of septic system built would be based on the percolation rate of the modified site, as Corzilius explains. Noble asks if there are any steep slopes ordinances in Littleton. Edick notes there is not one as far as he is aware. The lot is 4.5 acres. Corzilius explains that septic systems need to be cleaned out every year or two; however this is not typically what property owners do in practice. Corzilius expresses concern about the size of the leach field drawn to accommodate 4 bedrooms and its location on steep slopes. Concern is raised that there is no provision for stormwater management, such as a swale or anything to redirect or slow the flow of water. Corzilius references NH law (RSA 674:16) discussing steep slopes provisions with specific provisions where a 25% slope, which this lot appears to be.

Members note that the driveway shows 2 culverts, where it would be appropriate to have drainage directed to the nearby wetlands on site, but the current diagram does not appear to be setup this way. Question of snow storage comes up, although this cannot be identified from the diagram. Walling notes that they are within the limits of what is allowed for clearing on the site, and suggests any comments be focused on the items that are most related to the regulations as listed.

Members discuss attention needed to maintain the woodland along the river. Best practices when clearing any trees in the 50ft area, any defoliation between house and river should be seriously considered. Walling describes areas along the Ammonoosuc where one house ends up hard armoring after cutting trees and then that tends to extend over time to neighboring lots having to do the same.

Walling summarized the major items of concern: Steep slopes not fully accounted for in design, lack of stormwater runoff plan, presence of subsurface storage and drainage on a steep slope, and interest for special consideration to any defoliation on steep slope between the house and the reference line and the grid system to remove trees.

Edick makes a motion to write the letter with comments as noted in the discussion and written by Walling/Uyizeye. Piper seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous.

c. Shoreland Permit (2021-01715, Monroe Rd, Bath) & Renewal of NPDES minor permit 3-1324, Ryegate power station (comment due June 28)

These permits were discussed at previous meetings and it was determined that no further action is required at this time.

4. Other Permit Communications

a. RFMI. Water St, Lancaster (2021-00299)

Christie explains the mitigation fund calculation needs to be updated, all abutters were not included and should be. A revised application with these changes from the Portland Pipeline Corporation is expected. Christie comments that the Lancaster Conservation Commission is following the permit closely.

b. Approved with Conditions. Wetlands & Non-Site Specific Permit. 1291 Littleton Rd, Monroe.

Walling spoke to the homeowner on the phone and with NHDES. This one showed that all the engineering was correct as regulations require. Walling says his philosophy is that having people put in properly engineered docks and pathways is better than not allowing and having people find a walk around that is more degrading to the landscape.

Wetlands Permit			
CONNECTICUT RIVER – RIVERBEND LRS			
File Number	2021-01011	Application Type	EXPEDITED MINIMUM
Date Received	4/6/2021	Status	ADMINISTRATIVELY INCOMPLETE
Municipal Sign Off	2/19/2021		
Reviewer ID	Joe Schmidl	Preliminary Category	EXP - STANDARD TIMELINE
Agent		Final Category	
Owner	IVY WILKINSON-RYAN		
Tax Map	985	Lot Number	167
Address	1291 LITTLETON RD	Town	MONROE
Proposed Project	The purpose of the project is the installation of a small seasonal dock for recreational use. Impacts are temporary.		
LAC should have signed off on this permit application prior to its submission to NHDES if it is within LAC Jurisdiction. If the LAC has not signed the application, the LAC may submit comments by Friday, 4/30/2021, but MUST contact the permit reviewer immediately to inform them that comments are forthcoming.			

c. Wetlands permit, 2381 N Littleton Rd, Littleton

Walling explains that this permit has been accepted. It is a pond expansion being done by Jim Kennedy, the previous chair of UVRS who does this as a profession.

5. Updates & Other Business

a. LRS Water Quality & Outreach Updates

Piper and Noble give an update that sampling is underway, with some challenges with the Turbidity meter. Also a smaller bucket or adding holes to the larger bucket is needed to reduce the weight of water being pulled up.

b. Commissioners Update

Commissioners are reviewing the organization budget for the coming year and may consult the subcommittees in their review.

c. Future meetings

Members recommend reaching out to NH North Country Council and Northeastern Vermont Development Association for possible members to the Riverbend subcommittee, especially those with regulatory experience.

Uyizeye explains that staff will continue to join most subcommittee meetings remotely. Corzilius offers to help set up an audio conference call via zoom for staff and others joining via conference call. All members present expect to continue attending in person, except perhaps for the January meeting due to the winter season.

6. Adjourn

Piper makes a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm. Corzilius seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 6:30PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye