

**CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee
Minutes**

Thursday March 17, 2022 at 5:30PM
Hybrid Meeting – Waterford Library

Attendance

Lancaster	Rob Christie	V	Monroe			Guildhall		
Lancaster			Monroe			Guildhall		
Dalton			Bath	Rick Walling	V	Lunenburg		
Dalton	Gal Potashnick	X	Bath			Lunenburg		
Littleton			Haverhill	Pauline Corzilius	V	Concord	Deborah Noble	X
Littleton			Haverhill	Dale Lewis	X	Concord		
Waterford	William (Bill) Piper	V	Barnet	Bill Graves	V	Ryegate	Mary Dole	X
Waterford			Barnet	John Fairchild	X	Ryegate		
Newbury	Scott Labun	X						
Newbury								

Note: P = present in person; V = present over remote virtual platform; X = not present

Attending Virtually: Olivia Uyizeye (CRJC Staff); Kathy Urffer (River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy)

Minutes

1. Welcome

Walling starts the meeting at 6pm. Attendees introduce themselves.

2. Town/Member Updates

Jan Edick (Littleton) has formally resigned after his long membership due to an upcoming move.

In addition, Uyizeye informs members, that after review of the CRJC bylaws regarding member resignations, a method is being employed by the organization to facilitate better meetings of a quorum. It has been determined that if a member does not attend at least 3 meetings in a row and fails to respond to communications by CRJC members or staff, then that person may be resigned in consultation by the subcommittee chair and CRJC president. This action does not impact any of these individuals' ability to again join the LRS at a future time. For the Riverbend LRS, 5 members fell into this category – Michael Crosby (Dalton), Ken Hunter (Monroe), Dale Lewis (Haverhill), John Fairchild (Barnet), and Mary Dole (Ryegate). Uyizeye asks members if they have any information about these members that may be worth maintaining their membership. Members share that Dale Lewis, John Fairchild, and Mary Dole may not be in attendance due to difficulties attending in person or virtual access limitations. For these reasons, the members agree to maintain their membership for a bit longer and again attempt to contact and resolve potential barriers to attendance. It is agreed to resign Michael Crosby and Ken Hunter, effective immediately.

3. Permit Reviews

a. Fifteen Miles Falls with Kathy Urffer (Connecticut River Conservancy)

Application for Low Impact Recertification, details [HERE](#)

Urffer explains – Great River Hydro applied to the low impact hydro institute (LIHI) for certificate renewal from 2008 last approval. Typical recertification occurs every 5-10 years depending on whether a company can show performance above and beyond for impact. The certification is lucrative because it is a “green” standard for facilities. This means companies can sell this energy with renewable energy credits in MA or other states that buy these credits, creating additional value. The LIHI guidance document establishes standard to be met for certification. Recently, LIHI has been instituting more stringent standards due to concerns from environmental and advocacy groups. In addition, LIHI can impose conditions on a facility and make these a requirement. Thus, the recertification process is one opportunity to set more stringent standards through these “conditions”. The public and stakeholders can be creative about what these conditions could be.

Urffer offers her thoughts on possible conditions to include:

- funding Aquatic Invasive Species greeter program or other AIS education
- additional funding for MEF fund? over the course of the certificate term (5 to 10 years?)
- study requests?
- freshwater mussel study to identify if they have moved or current status. No study done since 1997.
- Threatened and Endangered species - northern long eared bat - no standards addressed their protection - good conditions to include
- recreation use survey to understand economic impact of recreation in the area?
- additional paddlers trail sites around Moore or Comerford reservoirs
- addition of remote Campsites on the Connecticut lakes - 2nd or 3rd
- angler education about mercury in fish. Current sampling needs to be done every 5 years.
- better maintenance of recreation access areas?
- improved portage around Comerford?
- additional needed recreation access sites?
- Maybe a comprehensive update to their website to show maps to all access areas and recreational amenities

Urffer continues to explain that if member know of any issues around recreational access areas – porta potty, access, cleanliness, safety – this could be a reason to condition repairs on those sites. These details go a long way in support of other comment letters being provided.

Conversation follows:

- Graves – Familiar with the McIndoes impoundment where last season the Port a potty was never cleaned from June to September. As a trustee with the McIndoes falls academy community center, aware of conversation about challenging access to the river. Comerford a little better access because it is bigger. Graves notes that in Barnet by Great River Hydro is appealing their tax report, arguing the value as a company is depreciating.
- Urffer – Shares that many town GRH has property, experience these appeals. Connecticut River Conservancy hired an analyst to do a study based on public information. Their determination being that each one of those facilities is achieving profit of several million dollars every year. Useful information for the towns to have during the appeals process.

- Piper – portage around the Moore dam is in very good shape. No signs at boat launches on Comerford about mercury in the fish that he’s seen. If there is, certainly isn’t prominent. Near the library there was a bridge, asked GRH (owns part of land) if a public access could be setup. GRH was very resistant. The company didn’t want to manage it.
- Urffer – on the topic of forestry practices, thousands of acres around reservoirs in easement with a management plan. States unsure if there have been impacts, or if practices are sound. No comments from members on that issue.
- Urffer – brings up the monitoring of invasive species through education of boat owners.
 - Piper has seen some signs around. Only place that doesn’t have them are Moore and Comerford.
 - Corzilius – suggests focusing outreach to many people on the holiday weekend like memorial and July 4th
 - Piper- notes traffic increases during the pandemic.
 - Graves – such a valuable contribution.
 - Urffer –concerned about Hydrilla in the lower part of the watershed in CT. Completely taking over. State representatives, Amy Smagula and Kimberly Jensen, try to get out and hit parts of the river. This is the only monitoring being done.
- Walling – shares that mitigation enhancement fund is for the first time really discussing funds starting to get low. Contribution to this fund as a condition of recertification would be added value.

Graves makes a motion to compile a letter of recommended conditions and observations. Corzilius seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

- b. 369 Main St, Lancaster Permit AoT Permit**
Develop/redevelop a site that was formerly used for commercial storage, by constructing a commercial metal building, paved parking and a gravel lot for the parking of trucks, equipment, and construction materials. The total area of disturbance is 181,000 ft².

Members review the permit. Corzilius notes the location in a commercial area. No major concerns are raised. Corzilius makes a motion to send a letter indicating the permit was reviewed with no comment. Piper seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

4. Meeting Minutes from July and December

Walling opens the July minutes for review. Piper makes a motion to approve the minutes as written. Graves seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

5. Updates & Other Business

c. Riverbend Management Plan Discussion

Uyizeye informs members that a copy of the most recent Riverbend recreation management plan is on the cloud storage. It is agreed for members to take some time to note any needed updates in the document. These items can then be discussed at the next Riverbend meeting.

d. Water quality Testing

Uyizeye summarizes the water quality monitoring work planned for the 2022 season <https://www.crtc.org/water-quality-monitoring/> Uyizeye asks if other members would like to

participate, or know of someone who would enjoy this work, to be in touch. Christie offers to connect Uyizeye to the Gilman hydro facility.

e. Commissioners Update

Uyizeye shares that the commissioners have conditionally approved subcommittees to use a disclaimer for comment letters coming out of meetings without a formal quorum as required by NH RSA 91-a. The disclaimer is an effort to provide some ability for LRS to submit comments despite their best efforts to meet quorum requirement.

6. Adjourn

Walling adjourns the meeting at 7:45PM

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 2, 2022 @5:30PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye