

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee
Minutes
 Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:30PM
 Virtual Meeting

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	Howard Hatch		Concord		
Waterford	William (Bill) Piper	V	Barnet	Bill (William) Graves	V	Ryegate	Mary Dole	X
Waterford			Barnet	John Fairchild		Ryegate		
Newbury	Scott Labun	X						
Newbury								

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

All members attended virtually.

CC Members: M Resta Detwiler, Kate Buckman, Ken Hastings, Andrea Cass (CRJC Staff)

NO QUORUM PRESENT. To meet a quorum, in person attendance from at least half of communities with representatives is required.

Minutes

1. Welcome

Walling started the meeting at 5:32 pm. Attendees introduce themselves.

2. Meeting Minutes Review from June and September

Due to a lack of a quorum, minutes are postponed to the next meeting. However, there were no comments or corrections made for June or September.

3. Permit Reviews and Communications

a. Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application (2022-02056)

Subject Property: 30 Connecticut St, Woodsville, Tax Map #101, Lot #22

Walling explained how it was a dirt path and now it's a safer place to launch kayaks and reduce erosion.

Received Shoreland Impact Permit Application (2022-03379)

Subject Property: 75 Barnet Rd, Monroe, Tax Map #R-4, Lot #15

Walling explained how it was a driveway.

a. Received Shoreland Permit Application (2022-02619)

Subject Property: 859 Dalton Rd, Dalton, Tax Map #411, Lot #000085

Walling looked to see how fast the septic drains. The standards put it well beyond the limitations. When there is a planned septic, the state standards are significant and are within limits.

4. Updates & Other Business

a. Survey Results: CRJC Evaluation 2022 for LRS Members

Hastings thanked everyone for being a member of the LRS. Steve Lempkey was the president and was frustrated with what was happening with CRJC. In the early 80s and 90s, there was a \$125k budget. He would like to see us get involved with grants. Ken asked, "Do you feel like you would stay or join if not appointed?" Every member said would still want to stay because of the watershed. Hastings mentioned how it is important for the commissioners to attend the LRS meetings. Walling said Hastings should encourage commissioners to attend LRS meetings.

Hastings is going to provide a condensed version of the survey results and provided a few takeaways. Some people didn't know what the LRS stood for. The water quality testing has also been very successful. Hastings said, "If you notice something, don't hesitate to reach out with something that is concerning." He mentioned how doors are open to the Commission. A number of respondents seemed unaware of available resources to support LRS members. Those who did felt positive but not very well prepared.

For Christie, it is a challenge to interact with other like-bodies (i.e. conservation commission) and interact with the selectboard. Any mechanism or tools that we can come up with, for the stakeholders to interact with the selectboard would be useful. There is a lack of organization among conservation. Instead, it is issue-driven. In Lancaster, there was more interest in CRJC when there were more grants. There is a perception that the commission will cost the town money. Direct outreach to town planners and selectboards would potentially help increase grant funding.

Walling had to ask the selectboard to be appointed. Walling reported after the first meeting. "If something really big comes up, go ahead." Several of the members are on multiple commissions.

Hastings said membership is important but has been hard and trying to find someone to replace him. He said, "If you know someone who expresses interest, invite them to the next meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the Commission, reach out to Olivia, Andrea, or Ken."

Christie is interested in designated rivers. Having a local advisory committee and getting a formally designated river. Walling mentioned it can be grassroots and it can take a few years.

Hasting mentioned the wild and scenic designation can be intimidating to folks.

Buckman mentioned that the Connecticut River Conservancy could help with the designation of rivers.

Corzilius mentioned that Dole preferred calling was the best option for receiving information. Graves said John Fairchild wants things to come via mail.

Walling said the grants don't flow like they used to from the federal government. The presidents of the commissions switch off frequently too.

Graves appreciated the personal visits the Commission (once a year) and mentioned how having a representative from each subcommittee on the commission could be helpful and help things be active.

b. CT River Watershed Partnership Act

The Friends of Conte (www.friendsofconte.org) is currently advancing a Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act. This legislation is closely modeled on the successful Delaware River Act and Chesapeake

WILD act, and meant to enhance collaboration and leverage the efforts of the many federal, state and local entities, who are doing critical protection and restoration work in the Watershed. The organization has solicited and continue to gather input from many organizations and individuals active in the Watershed in an attempt to be inclusive and comprehensive in our approach and language.

c. Town/Member Updates

There were no town/member updates.

5. Adjourn

Christie moved to adjourn, Piper seconds. Adjourns at 6:35 pm.

Next Meeting

April 6, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Littleton Community Center

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Andrea Cass