



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Monday, January 9, 2023

7 PM

Conference Call

Attendees

Plainfield	David Taylor	Virtual	Windsor	Michael Metivier	
Plainfield	<i>Open</i>		Windsor	Jim Bennett	Virtual
Cornish	Jeffrey Plant	Virtual	Weathersfield	Howard Beach	
Cornish	Colleen O'Neill		Weathersfield	<i>Open</i>	
Claremont	<i>Open</i>		Springfield	Bill Manner	Virtual
Claremont	<i>Open</i>		Springfield	Kelly Stettner	Virtual
Hartland	Judy Howland	Virtual	Rockingham	<i>Open</i>	
Hartland	<i>Open</i>		Rockingham	<i>Open</i>	
Charlestown	John Streeter				
Charlestown	<i>Open</i>				

Virtual: Tracie Sales (NHDES), Olivia Uyizeye (CRJC staff)

No Quorum – This meeting does not meet the requirement for a quorum.

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair David Taylor calls the meeting to order at 7PM. Taylor welcomes all present. Attendees and visitors introduce themselves, providing local updates.

- Howland, Hartland – The Town is reconfiguring the intersection at 3 corners. Voted on twice by a large majority of the voted. RFP has gone out to bid and expects it will be done this summer.
- Stettner, Springfield – Provided input on Town Plan recreation chapter; Now has a River team to start sampling Hubbard Brook in Windsor, asking if there is any interest from this group to participate; working up in Plymouth and Ludlow this summer to get involved in some stream bank stabilization work.
- Plant, Cornish – joining Cornish conservation commission as an alternate member, waiting to be sworn in. Very active group.
- Bennett, Windsor – finished the paradise park management plan, done for another decade; work on the industrial park buildout permit; welcome to help with the Hubbard Brook water quality sampling sites with Stettner.
- Manner, Springfield – ONRCD looking to hire a new district manager
- Sales, NHDES – Rivers program in NH falls under area of interest and work. Welcome to answer any questions and be a resource to the group.

- Taylor, Plainfield – keeping an eye on riverbanks. An outstanding one on River Rd that has not yet been dealt with by the state. Representatives of legislatures are advocating for work to be done.
- Uyizeye, Claremont – participated in a recreation economy planning event, including mention of activities on and near the Connecticut River. Committee active to move priorities forward.

2. *Meeting Minutes from July (for approval)*

Tabled for next meeting.

Manner indicates typo in October notes under permit review, 4th line down, “solar array”

3. *Permit Review*

a. *Industrial park buildout, Windsor VT (Find details:*

<https://enb.vermont.gov/?id=18350>)

Bennett explains permit discussed at the last meeting. No new concerns that would warrant comments. Infiltration basin and swale at the bottom of the access road to equal out the additional impervious from the extension to the building. Two other treatments out there seemed to be working well. Everything seemed to fit well.

a. *Farm Store development, Hartland VT (Past Comment, Find details:*

<https://enb.vermont.gov/?id=18114>)

Taylor. Proposed development along Route 5, quite large farm outlet store with take-out deli, bakery, parking etc. Also have an event space with 48 parking spaces. From a man in Naples, FL. Owns cows also in the area. To be located on what is agricultural land. There is a small brook that adjoins part of it and flows into the Connecticut River.

Howland. Hartland is divided on the topic of this development. The owner bought this piece of property a couple years back in a tax sale.

Members agree to watch for impacts to the stream in coordination with the Hartland conservation commission. Some discussion was on whether to petition as a part of interest to the permit. General agreement is that this is unnecessary. Taylor will discuss with the chair of the Hartland CC.

4. *Updates & Other Business*

a. *Updates from Tracie Sales, NHDES*

Sales. Developing a new LAC/LRS website which will have more information on each group. Place to put documents and a set of resources for everybody, although it will not include VT items. Starting into the legislative season that may impact watershed management or rules that guide these types of groups.

Another item of interest going on is a cyanobacteria study committee with a broad variety of stakeholders involved. State has put a little bit of money to start digging into the problem that

is happening. Will be sharing the outcome of that. Nisa Marks will be doing the bulk of the writing of that document. Native bacteria, always some, but because of the excess nutrients that bacteria grow and are frequently toxic including skin rashes, nervous problems, dogs who have drunk it and die. Green scum on a lake or a river. Studies out their looking at how the toxins can aerosolize (float up into the air) with possible link to higher incidence of ALS for people who live around lake. A push is happening around the country and New England especially. A few frequent flyers are Silver Lake in Hollis NH. Tends to be with a lot of old septic systems. Mascoma lake is one of the ones being studied for an ALS cluster. Nippo lake in Barrington. Allum treatment was done once before about 20 years ago in NH, aluminum in lake to bind the phosphorus. May looking into doing a little bit more. The solution is really to eliminate the source of the problem itself.

Representatives discuss a part of Martha's Vineyard being impacted. Concern for threats to drinking water supplies and how to protect. A lot of federal funding right now to do projects out there. DES is pretty busy trying to keep up with it all. Glad to have some of these projects finally getting done.

Uyizeye shares the following updates:

- More information will be coming soon on the next events of the riverwide speaker series.
- The Mount Ascutney social event is scheduled for August 27th. Members and guests are asked to RSVP for an accurate head count for food. Members express no concerns to send invitations to local legislators.

b. LRS survey

Uyizeye. Thanks those who participated and Shares a few general takeaways from the survey results

- On Q10&11 - Members were largely positive with some uncertainty about CRJC watershed impact and Commissioner support for LRS. Particular highlights were in permit reviews and water testing.
- On Q13 - preferred communications were variable from emails to websites to commissioner updates at LRS meetings
- On Q17 - Range in participation from 1 to over 30 years.
- On Q16 - Survey representation from all LRS.

Mentions a few additional takeaways and questions for discussion

- On Q1 - A number of respondents seemed unaware of available resources to support LRS members. Those who did felt positive but not very well prepared. What might more useful tools look like?
Representatives appreciate the easy access to permits.
- On Q3&6 – For items ranked for important to LRS functioning, staff supporting for meetings and permit review ranked at the top followed next by the speaker series and then communications/recruitment. It was surprising to see recruitment so far down the

list, especially given response to #6 with low confidence on member ability to replace themselves if needed. What should LRS recruitment look like in the next few years? Representatives encourage sending regular notices to Towns. Ask the select board to put in on their agenda. Emphasis to move on inactive members.

- On Q7to9 – Most members felt they could communicate with commissioners, but did not have a good understanding of the work commissioners do or watershed issues of concern. Are there strategies you'd like to see commissioners implement that would influence the LRS?

Representatives appreciate reports given by commissioners directly during a meeting.

c. Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act

Uyizeye. Share details on draft language put forward by the Friends of Conte. Representatives are encouraged to review and provide their comments.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourns at 8PM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.