

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

Minutes

Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting at AHEAD Conference Room

Attendance

Lancaster	Rob Christie	P	Monroe	Steve Sherman	V	Guildhall		
Lancaster			Monroe	Justin Bradshaw	X	Guildhall		
Dalton			Bath	Rick Walling	P	Lunenburg		
Dalton	Gal Potashnick	X	Bath			Lunenburg		
Littleton	Sean Doll	P	Haverhill	Pauline Corzilius	V	Concord	Deborah Noble	P
Littleton			Haverhill	Howard Hatch	X	Concord		
			Haverhill	Gale Lewis	X			
Waterford	William (Bill) Piper	P	Barnet	Bill (William) Graves	X	Ryegate	Mary Dole	X
Waterford			Barnet	John Fairchild	X	Ryegate	Sally Wilson	X
Newbury	Scott Labun	X						
Newbury								

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

Partners Present: Majestic Terhune (CRJC Staff, Virtually)

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Walling called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from July 2023

- a. *Piper motioned to approve the minutes without changes. Christie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

3. Permit Reviews and Communications

- a. Lancaster Elementary Floodplain Restoration

Christie provided an overview of the permit application and Walling described the ARM funding process. The committee reviewed the proposal materials, including maps of impacted areas, funding breakdown, plans for invasive species removal, and the proposed species planting list. Corzilius noted that from a botanist's perspective, the proposal seems well-informed. Piper invited others to comment on other potential concerns. Seeing none, *Christie motioned for Walling to write a letter of support for the project on behalf of the committee. Corzilius seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. Updates & Other Business

- a. Member and Local Updates

The group welcomed Doll to the committee.

Several members spoke to their participation in the October 18 Northern Convening for the Connecticut River Watershed. Noble mentioned a potential septic system project that she discussed with Convening participant Sam Mayne from the Essex County Natural Resources Conservation District and her plans to connect with him further. Christie described several common goals discussed at the Convening, including staff shortages. Walling described the current process for soliciting LRS membership from municipalities. Christie, Noble, and Walling spoke to potential avenues of increasing engagement, including linking the

LRS to ongoing projects and emphasizing the various activities along the Watershed that the group can be involved in.

The group touched on potential projects and communities within the watershed that they could further participate in. Doll, Noble, and Walling discussed recreational groups that might be interested in projects that would provide further access to the River, including Connecticut River paddlers and mountain bikers, particularly around the Moore Dam. Walling requested that review of the LRS' recreation plan, conservation easement, and potential partners be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Walling suggested researching further into non-motorized recreation in the dam area. Doll and Noble to connect with municipal recreation and bike/ped contact Joe Fox on recreation projects and partnership potential. The group expressed interest in having him speak at a future committee meeting.

Christie highlighted risk at Murphy Dam and suggested connecting with the Headwaters LRS.

Christie noted that there are currently potential LACs in the area that do not exist. Walling described the process for instituting a LAC, and Christie suggested reaching out to those communities within the group's purview without a LAC to remind them of the opportunity.

b. Recap from Northern Convening

Terhune provided a brief overview of the meeting. Members who attended the meeting spoke to their experiences and appreciated the potential connections and ideas that came out of the event. Noble described Windham Regional Commission's presentation, which included working with a low-income community along the Connecticut River watershed and partnering with the local school district on education and engagement efforts.

c. Update on Virtual Speaker Events this Winter

Terhune provided a brief update on the Speaker Series, noting that the dates are tentatively set for February.

d. Other Business

Walling expressed interest in implementing a mechanism to draft letters of support to be reviewed by the committee and submitted in between meetings. Christie and Corzilius agreed and suggested potential means. CRJC staff member to discuss potential ways to do so at next committee meeting.

The group is interested in recruiting more members to the LRS. The group discussed potential community events, including Paddle the Border, as avenues to reach more people interested in the Connecticut River. CRJC staff member to contribute potential flyers and/or informational materials.

5. Adjourn

Piper motioned to adjourn. Christie seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2023

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Majestic Terhune