

CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting at AHEAD Conference Room

Attendance

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

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

Partners Present: Olivia Uyizeye (CRJC Staff; Virtually).

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

Uyizeye called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from February 2024

Noble motioned to approve the minutes without changes. Graves seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention from Bradshaw.

3. Permit Reviews and Communications

a. Gilman Dam, Scoping Document (Comments Past, Due April 8)

It is discussed that the Gilman Dam relicensing process is getting underway. At this point, a scoping document of the considerations to be taken into account as part of the NEPA process has been presented with the opportunity to comment. The comment period has passed at the time of this meeting. It is discussed that the scoping document’s discussion of cumulative impact seems to cover major topics, however, the descriptions are very high level with minimal detail.

b. Lancaster Pit Expansion – Alteration of Terrain (File No. 20240131-018)

Update: This project is pending resubmittal due July 19 in response to RFMI.

It is discussed that this permit continues to be under consideration as the applicant prepares a response to the NHDES request for more information. Riverbend comments were previously submitted on the matter.

c. GRH, Herbicide Special Permit. #24-171 (Comments Due May 17)

Members discuss the locations targeted for herbicide treatment including recreational access areas, as well as connection to the substation at Comerford Dam. Members review permit documents that summarize locations and types/methods of herbicide application.

Members discuss the unfortunate nature of the situation that herbicides must be used to treat invasives. Members recognize that invasives can get really out of hand while regretting that this is the method chosen

without evident exploration of alternative strategies or efforts to identify alternative strategies for future application. The members prefer the use of non-chemical methods for control to be advanced through research and additional funding.

Graves motion to submit a comment letter reflecting a preference for non-herbicide methods, Doll seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d. NH State, Herbicide Special Permit, #24-195 (Comments Due May 28)

Members review the herbicide application maps in Lancaster and the permit description. Members recognize that Lancaster locations are on the eastern side of Town. Members agree that the treatment is not of sufficient watershed impact to warrant comment for an area outside the Connecticut River corridor.

4. Officer Elections

It is discussed that Chair Walling is stepping down as chair and a new officer(s) will need to be soon elected. There is a general discussion of responsibilities for the officer position. Members agree to postpone a vote on the matter to the next meeting after members have more time to consider their availability for a chair, co-chair, or vice-chair position. CRJC staff will consult with all members on the topic in advance of the next Riverbend meeting.

5. Updates & Other Business

a. Member and Local Updates

Noble expresses concern and requests more information on the bike path expansion from St Johnsbury to Whitefield NH. CRJC staff agree to inquire further on the topic.

Noble expresses concern for an undersized railway culvert in Concord that drains to the Moose River and ultimately the Passumpsic. The issue has been present for more than a decade causing fast flows and erosion without being corrected. Noble would like to learn more about what the process and plan is for the structure's replacement.

Graves reports that discussions continue in Barnet around the area of Harvey Lake on issues of flooding and pollution. A discussion continues from the 1980s on whether to eliminate or lower a dam located in the vicinity.

Graves reports that Groton is doing a bit of work on the Wells River.

Graves reports that Newbury and Haverhill are exploring strategies to address farm management issues. Helpful to have engagement from Ben Copans. Hard to get good information. There are some good presentations.

No updates from Barnet, Littleton, or Monroe.

b. CRJC Event Updates

Uyizeye provides a brief update on the Land Use and Resilience event.

c. Other Business

Members discuss concerns regarding the meeting location as the building is difficult to navigate. Also, it is considered whether an alternative time needs to be explored to help increase attendance.

6. Adjourn

Bradshaw motioned to adjourn. Noble seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting concludes at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Uyizeye.