



CRJC Mount Ascutney Local River Subcommittee

Monday, August 12th, 2024

7 PM

Attendees

Plainfield	David Taylor	P	Windsor	Jim Bennett	X
Plainfield	<i>Open</i>		Windsor	<i>Open</i>	
Cornish	<i>Open</i>		Weathersfield	Howard Beach	P
Cornish	<i>Open</i>		Weathersfield	<i>Open</i>	
Claremont	<i>Open</i>		Springfield	Bill Manner	V
Claremont	<i>Open</i>		Springfield	Kelly Stettner	X
Hartland	Judy Howland	X	Rockingham	<i>Open</i>	
Hartland	Dan Nelson	P	Rockingham	<i>Open</i>	
Charlestown	<i>Open</i>				
Charlestown	<i>Open</i>				

P – In-Person; V – Virtual; X – Not Present

In-Person: Ian Garland (CRJC Staff Consultant)

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Taylor started the meeting at 7:10 PM. Members and other attendees introduced themselves.

2. Meeting Minutes from April 2024

Taylor opened the April 2024 minutes for review.

Nelson asked if staff had followed up on a previous meeting's suggestion of contacting NH Fish and Game regarding the serious erosion at their Cornish, NH, boat launch just north of the Windsor Covered Bridge. Garland said he would check into that.

Nelson motioned to approve April 2024 minutes, Beach seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Permit Reviews

a. Informational/Past Comment Period: Great River Hydro Special Herbicide Permit

Nelson talked about how he has started to think more about the application of Roundup near bodies of water. Stated that the more he reads about it the more worried he gets. Mentioned bans in Europe, Canada, and Mexico. Countries that have banned it have found less harmful alternatives. In VT some municipalities have used alternatives such as sheep and goats. Nelson stated that from now on he is inclined to vote against all permits involving Roundup. He also requested the next meeting to include a presentation from an expert on the subject to provide a balanced conversation about Roundup as a whole, including the positives and negatives so the group can be more informed. Nelson also mentioned that the Hartland Conservation Commission is also worried, and he is a chemist. Stated that both humans, insects, and fish are being harmed. Stated that he heard in a study that by 2050, cancer incidences in men will increase by 90% from all causes.

Beach talked about studies keeping blood samples for investigative reports that found trace amounts of Roundup in many people. He also mentioned that it's found in manure meaning that it's either in the meat or the milk. Also talked about there being two different forms of the chemical with a water based and an oil based, one is supposed to be safer than the other.

Nelson agreed that there is a need to address invasive species but would like to view less harmful alternatives. He also mentioned that Rob Andregg from Hartland might know someone and can be found on the town website

b. Informational/Past Comment Period: Plainfield Special Herbicide Permit

Comments from the Group remained the same from the previous Herbicide Permit

c. NH Department of Agriculture Division of Pest Control Special Permit Application Connecticut River

Nelson stated that he didn't like the idea of using Roundup and would like to explore alternatives.

Howard stated that Roundup doesn't do anything to knot weed. Said that poison ivy has been growing like crazy.

Nelson mentioned that he would like the comments they stated in the Great River Hydro Application discussions to be submitted for this application as they include the same chemical being used.

Nelson motioned to have Garland submit their comments to NHD Department of Agriculture. Taylor seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Nelson mentioned that Resources UVM extension service has someone who advices on grazing for invasives including poison ivy and know weed

d. Wetland Permit Application Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park

Nelson stated that he thought it is a worthwhile project, damage to the ecosystem would be worse if there was a collapse.

Taylor stated that he had no comment. Stated that they've been careful in the past and that it is a continuation of the past. He said that he didn't want a historical building floating down the stream. Mentioned that the pond was filling fast and in 20 years it will be a wetland.

Manner stated that he has no issue with the application.

Taylor motioned to approve. Nelson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Updates & Other Business

a. Town/Member Updates

Taylor mentioned business that was going on in the Hartland store. Said the store was bought by Sunnymede Farm and included a permit for a farm stand, the town tried to kill it; the judge ruled that it could move forward. There were mixed emotions from the town. People were worried that it would take away from local businesses. He stated that a certain percentage of their crops must be locally grown.

Taylor mentioned the Tesla battery charge station in Hartland. Nelson mentioned that they should include them at libraries.

Taylor talked about the Plainfield River Road repair. Mentioned that the town was happy, they didn't have to get the state involved. They got someone on the road to agree to give up some of his property so they could move the road. They ended up moving utility poles. They hope to have it done by the end of the summer. Howard was surprised that the river washes out despite all the root stability.

No updates from Manner. He did mention that he would like the CRJC to do outreach to appoint new members from towns that are not represented. Nelson mentioned contacting the conservation commission chairs, there might be overlap. Howard said the conservation commission

Nelson mentioned that his conservation commission adopted the group's comments on the dam relicensing.

Howard stated that the conservation commission also weighed in on the dam relicensing.

Howard asked about the River Plan for Wilder to Bellows Falls because of the relicensing. Asked if the river plans will continue now that the relicensing has concluded. Would like to have guidelines for towns to follow.

5. Adjourn

7:44 Nelson motioned to adjourn, Taylor seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

Monday, November 11th, 2024 @ 7 PM

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Ian Garland