

**CRJC Wantastiquet Subcommittee
Minutes**

Thursday, April 17th, 2025, at 6:00PM

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and Windham Regional Commission Office

Attendees

Walpole	Samantha Loch	P	Westminster		
Walpole			Westminster	Jim Calchera	P
Westmoreland	Perry Sawyer	P	Putney	Heidi Henkel	P
Westmoreland			Putney		
Chesterfield	Roland Volbehr	X	Dummerston		
Chesterfield			Dummerston		
Hinsdale	Mike Darcy	X	Brattleboro	Kathy Urffer	X
Hinsdale			Brattleboro	Michael Fairchild	P
Vernon	Andy White	X			
Vernon					

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

Others Present: Ian Garland (UVLSRPC Staff) virtually Margo Ghia- CRJC Commissioner

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sawyer convened the meeting at 6:04 PM. Members said greetings.

2. Meeting Minutes from November Approval

Henkel requested to update the minutes to more accurately reflect what she said.

Chair Sawyer moved to approve the minutes. Calchera seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Informational Updates/Permits Past Review Date

a. Fletcher Pit General Permit

The group discussed the location of the gravel pit and the previous ownership of it.

Sawyer asked if it was within a quarter mile of the river. It is not so the group can't pass official comments.

Ghia talked about the difference between VT and NH and the comment and review process.

The group discussed what the permit was for and why it was needed. They decided that there isn't much they can do without more details.

b. Westminster Green Mountain Power Letter of Intent

Calchera described the project and said that there will be an EV charging station and storm water buffer.

Henkel talked about how it is a large plot of pavement already.

Ghia stated that it is a newer building, so they probably already have the existing papers.

Calchera stated that they are adding some things, so they need to go through the process again.

Calchera also stated that all these areas need maintenance and that is what it's for.

No comments or concerns.

c. Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development, Inc. Notice of Intent

Ghia and Henkel discussed the project area and the elevation. Ghia stated that it is near the bottom of the campus.

Fairchild stated that he thinks they will get pushback over the traffic that is on Maple St.

Ghia wants to see this kind of development in town rather than in the woods.

Henkel stated that it is a good location for the development, so they are close to the grocery store.

Sawyer said that it looks like a better use than a homeless encampment.

Henkel stated that there needs to be more housing in Brattleboro for people who live in Brattleboro. Stated that they need to keep adding more.

Calchera stated that he thinks it is good for Brattleboro and that they've done their due diligence.

No comments or concerns.

d. Town/Member Updates

Henkel talked about the trump administration changing their interpretation of the Endangered Species Act. Stated that we don't want to be destroying the endangered species' habitat. They want to reinterpret the act to it only actually hurting the species itself rather than the habitat too. Wants to know who to submit comments to.

The group stated that either Peter Welsh or Bernie Sanders would be a good person to reach out to.

Calchera stated that he thinks it should be submitted per individual rather than through the CRJC.

Garland stated that he will look into where to submit comments and the timeline and create an email blast to the LRS groups.

Calchera talked about the upcoming Herricks Cove event in VT. The group talked about past events and how they are positive. The date is May 4th.

Sawyer said that someone came to the Westmoreland Conservation District and was adamant about controlling knotweed.

Henkel said that you need to mechanically remove it persistently and replace it with natives until it is gone completely.

Fairchild talked about how fast knotweed grows on his property after trying to get rid of it for 20 years.

4. Adjourn

6:46 PM Sawyer made a motion to adjourn; Fairchild seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

TBA

Notes submitted respectfully by Ian Garland