

**Upper Valley Subcommittee
Special Meeting Notes**

Monday, March 17th 2025 – 6:00 PM Meeting

Hybrid Meeting – Latham Library, Downstairs, 16 Library Rd, Thetford, VT

Attendance

NH Members:	Attendance	VT Members:	Attendance
Alice Creagh, Hanover	X	Ted Unkles, Bradford	P
Vacancy, Hanover		Vacancy, Bradford	
Eric Agterberg, Lebanon	X	Ben Dana, Fairlee	X
Ruth Bleyler, Lebanon	X	Arlene Guest, Fairlee	P
Bill Malcolm, Lyme	P	David Barrell, Hartford	X
Vacancy, Lyme		Lynn Bohi, Hartford	P
Ted Cooley, Orford	V	Bill Bridge, Thetford	P
		Linda Matteson, Thetford	P
Carl Schmidt, Orford	X	Watt Alexander, Norwich	P
Vacancy, Piermont		Lynnwood Andrews, Norwich	P
Vacancy, Piermont		Vacancy, Norwich	
Majestic Terhune, Lebanon	P		
Jude Stull (sp?) Lebanon	P		

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

Partners Present: Ian Garland (Staff, CRJC, In-person)

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Malcolm called the meeting to order at 6 pm

2. Members with 3 or more Unexcused Absences:

Malcolm asked for an update from the Full Commission

Cooley stated that they will be meeting in a week but there has been no updates yet.

3. February Minutes:

Linda Matteson was not included on the last minutes so Garland stated that he would update them to reflect that change. Garland also stated that he would update the date in the minutes from September to January.

Guest motioned to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Bohi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Permits

a. West Lebanon Alteration of Terrain Permit

Malcolm explained that the timeline and that comments are due by Friday of this week. Explained that whatever they decide to do, they need to do today.

Unkles asked where they intend to put the soil.

Terhune stated that there is no date on where they conducted the survey for rare and endangered species.

Malcolm had a question about the drainage and the settling area and whether or not there will be vegetation.

Linda Matteson arrived.

Terhune stated that the bridge is in obvious need of repair, so the project is a positive step overall. Also stated that there is a stormwater management plan.

Guest stated that it is positive but she didn't see the date for the search for stick weed. Unkles responded by saying that if they didn't look in the right time of year, they might not find it.

Andrews said that there is Virginia Stick wood in Boston Lot and it would be visible in the fall.

Malcolm asked about the proposed access road.

Andrews asked if it fed into the desire for a boat launch.

Bohi stated that the access road is a request from the railroad. Not to provide additional access to the river.

Jude Stull arrived.

More discussion about the access road.

Unkles stated that there is no storm water control right now so it is a step in the right direction.

Andrews asked what they are going to do to vegetate the pond.

Guest stated that there are so many invasives in the area, asked if they are going to introduce natives.

Unkles asked where they are going to haul all of the invasive species and asked what their plan is to deal with them.

Malcolm asked if they are going to try to deal with them. Malcolm also stated that not all invasive species react the same way to treatments.

Bohi said that Lebanon has concerns about past contamination of the soil. They are only willing to take on future soil contamination of the soil and are at a standstill. The state wants to get rid of liability.

Unkles stated that diesel, railroad tie contamination, and other materials are factors as well.

Bohi asked if there was a way to discuss and asked if the city can block access to the river if they own it in the future.

Guest made a motion to have Malcolm write a letter complimenting the project on adding drainage and stormwater management and asking the questions mentioned in the meeting. Unkles seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Hanover Foot Access to Dock

Malcolm stated that the design doesn't seem to match the grade. Felt uncomfortable with the image that was presented in the pdf.

Terhune stated that it would be helpful if they had more information to go along with the grade.

Bohi said that they might want to build in a zig zag around the slope.

Terhune stated that kids are going to be going in and out of the river and might slip on steep, wet stairs.

Bohi asked how they would be able to ask if the proposed plan is going to work.

Malcolm stated that trying to schedule a visit to the site to confirm the measurements before the group responds is an option.

Bridge stated that you need to find the rise and run to get a better idea if it works.

Malcolm said that you can also call the engineer or planner to get the elevation and slope for the project.

Andrews and Bohi agreed that calling the engineer seems to be the most expedient process.

Unkles mentioned that reducing erosion is good, but the steps need to be safe for people to use.

Andrews said that it seems the group likes the idea of adding stairs to the area but is concerned about the safety of them because of the inadequacies of the drawings provided.

Unkles motioned to authorize Malcolm to send an email that erosion is a problem and stairs are a good solution to alleviate the problem, but the group has concerns about the feasibility of the permit application based on the drawings. Bridge seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business

Malcolm explained how to get to the google drive for the Upper Valley LRS.

Wilder:

Malcolm stated that the group can file for intervenor status if everyone would like, but the group can also file for reply comments. The deadline is in 60 days.

Cooley stated that he is not completely sure right now how and when to respond to FERC. Will be meeting about it at the next CRJC meeting.

Unkles recused himself from the conversation based on an ongoing lawsuit with the Great River Hydro.

Andrews asked if it is a duplication of effort.

Malcolm stated that the table of contents to know which applications are important, they collect that information for the application to the agency. This is to make sure that they address issues in the NEEPA process. Specific set of guidelines that they must follow. Can bring them up again.

Malcolm stated that there should be an authorization of a reissue of that letter with how it stands today. If the group finds out that there is more time, then they can finish it. Once there is word from the full commission they can figure the rest out.

Motion to authorize Malcolm to submit the previous comments to FERC for the Wilder Dam NEEPA review in the event that the deadline occurs prior to the next meeting. Guest seconded, Unkles recused himself. The motion passed unanimously.

Jude Stull was voted a full member unanimously.

6. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn from Majestic at 7:29 pm, Guest seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is May 19th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Garland.

DRAFT