

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee

Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Westfield Community Center

Attendees: Sue Brassett, Helene Croteau, Russ Ford, Ellen Fox, John Little, Jeff Parsons, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Sherry Willey, Dan Seeley, Jenevra Wetmore, and Lindsey Wight.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Lindsey Wight. Sue Brassett was our secretary for this meeting – thank you Sue! We welcomed Dan Seeley from Richford, who is interested in being our new town appointee from Richford. Lindsey will work with the selectboard to make it official.

Minutes of the December 20th meeting were reviewed. CS motioned to accept, WS seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Administrative Business/Action Update:

- a) **Financial report:** Cynthia gave an assessment of our financials as we head into a new year.
- b) **2018 year-end summary:** Lindsey provided some graphs and assessments of 2018. Some discussion of how best to track and then present the ways our dollars are being spent.
- c) **Lindsey evaluation:** Lindsey will create an evaluation form to send out before the February meeting, so that Committee members may weigh in on her performance and other aspects of how the Committee functions.
- d) **Uniform allowance:** Committee members are allotted a \$75 allowance to spend on items that we will get printed/embroidered with our logo (circle logo with the text around the outside of the circle). Jenevra has created a limited “catalog” with pricing through JC Image – ask Lindsey if you did not receive this or need her to resend. Other items from the whole JC Image catalog may be chosen (available at catalog.companycasuals.com, but often without pricing) – please select royal blue items when possible. Let Lindsey know which items and size you would like. When she has a number of these, she will submit an order – so send her your desired items!
- e) **UMATR notepads:** UMATR “dictionary definition” – add the contact information to anything we produce. Smaller notepads mean the text will be tiny. What will people actually use? 8.5x5.5 notepads? Thank you postcards? Printed envelopes? Insulated water bottles? – Lindsey/Jenevra will price some of these out. Lindsey will bring examples of all the items (tshirts, water bottles, etc.) we have so far to the February meetings.
- f) **2018 River Community Grants summary:** Lindsey summarized the offerings of Bugworks that the MRBA provided with W&S funds. In 2018, we gave out 10 grants; 6 have now been closed out. Lindsey has been in contact with several of the outstanding grantees, including one from 2017.
- g) **2019 River Community Grants:** Applications are due Feb 1, 2019 – up to \$60,000 to give out. Keep spreading the word!

2019 events:

Events poster – Nice to have all the events of the year displayed in one place, so let’s do some “long-term” posters, as well as shorter term posters for the events.

- **February snowshoes** – Lindsey is working to settle dates for these with our County Foresters. Some great locations were suggested by Committee members.
- **April/May** – kid activities for vacations – both counties. Ideas included: using lidar maps to show how a river

moves over time; also bring in a stream table? What is a flood? How dams affect rivers? About the word “hydrology”. Can we set up a “bugworks-like” model – a package that several people can present? Then we can offer in several locations.

Related: Big projects that highlight the benefits of our rivers and their landscapes and demonstrate the connection of our rivers to the community. Offer Keeping Track training to collect and organize data in our basin? Use the Bugworks model, but for other river topics and provide 3-4 session; an ongoing unit. Create coloring books, like the fishing one that VTF&Wlife has?

- **June 30** – Paddle and Picnic from the Border to Richford if the water levels allow
- **August 18** – Wild & Scenic Gathering. Let’s continue to come up with sponsors and partners. Lindsey will check in with the Village.
- **September 7** – Montgomery River Clean-up – this year we will focus on swimming holes and downstream of bridges, so have certain spots that people will focus, gathering together again at the end for a celebration.
- **November (or Dec)** – Wild and Scenic Film Festival – Lindsey will reach out to Jay Peak to secure a date.
- **July or October** – “Taste of Wild & Scenic”? We would offer a smaller, less wild event than Montgomery held in the past – just one day. EF can put us in contact with food producers.
- **Other events, as planned:** artist events – Plein Air painting/W&S By The Season: artists do certain locations, but on their own timeline, then we do a curated show? L will reach out to MCA folks. Some sort of public art installation?

Other/Partner Events: ECC snowshoe at the Enosburg Town Forest Feb 16; MRBA Annual Forum April 4; Richford River Fest June 22 (probably); MRBA clean-ups (July 20); MRBA concert August (5 minutes)

Upcoming Meetings: Switch the locations of the Feb and Mar meeting – The INN will be crowded during Presidents week!

February 21 – Orleans County – North Troy Village Office (160 Railroad St). VLT will present on easements and we’ll make final grant decisions.

March 21 – Franklin County – Montgomery – The INN?

April 18 – Franklin County – Enosburgh?

Wrap up and adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.