

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee
Minutes**

Thursday, April 16, 2020 – Online via Zoom

Attendees: Jacques Couture, Russ Ford, Ellen Fox, Carol Hickey, John Little, Jim MacCartney, Jeff Parsons, Bethany Remmers, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Dan Seeley, and Lindsey Wight

Meeting called to order at 6:33 with a brief overview of Zoom tricks and tips, and a check-in. All attendees reported they are doing well and keeping busy; most feel lucky to live where we do – get out and take walks, keep positive, and hoping that in the future we can keep some of the good things that we’re discovering out of this, and not resume some of the things that we don’t miss from our former “normal” lives.

Review of the Feb minutes: CS motioned; WS seconded; minutes were approved as written.

Administrative business: We’ve been approved for an ECO AmeriCorps member next year, shared with MRBA.

Our 2021 budget has been submitted – to align better with other Partnership rivers, we are allocating 10% of our budget to our fiscal agent (the MRBA), so Lindsey moved a few things around (mostly within our administrative budget) to make room for this. Jim let us know that the NPS will be moving to a Grant Solutions platform/portal that will allow for better online access – we’ll be able to access this, too. Likely to roll out in Sept/Oct, and it will impact our financial reporting (upload our form 425s instead of email them to Jim).

Cynthia went over the quarterly report. We need to expend our full allocation this year, as it’s the end of a cooperative agreement. Lindsey will be sure to withdraw money regularly, and we’ll be sure to use it.

Storm Impact Grants: The RFP for the Storm Impacts Grant has been released; Lindsey sent it to Town Clerks, but please help spread the word about this opportunity to your towns. Applications are due on May 11th.

Need to form a grants subcommittee to help assess the applications. Carol, Wendy, and Russ volunteer.

Lindsey will reach out to the recipients of our 2020 River Community Grants to see if their projects will be impacted by COVID-19, and will give a synopsis during our May meeting.

Projects: The NFCT still plans to have a summer crew; they will redo the steps at Davis Park, and also will do some work at Doe Camp (privy and picnic table improvements).

Signage: The road signs have arrived; Lindsey will reach out to towns (with specs and the target crossings) to see if they are willing to install on our town road crossings, but Committee members should also reach out. Jacques can help Lindsey know what posts to order. Discussion about locations – town road crossings in Westfield, Troy, Montgomery, Enosburg (Boston Post? Bridge of Flowers and Lights and 108 – but these are outside of the actual designated area, due to the dam); Rail Trail bridge in Berkshire?

Mill Brook: Things are progressing – might need archeological/historical assessment. The contractor is at the ready to do the machine work once we have a go-ahead. Need to order coir fabric. Plants – source willows on site? VYCC crews are delayed, but may be able to play a role later in the summer, or in the fall.

Events: Our Feb 22nd snowshoe was great; 12 people enjoyed exploring the new trail on the school-owned property near the Chase dam on River Rd, and learning about the woods and wildlife from Jared Nunery. A successful partnership again this year!

LNT workshop is on hold; we’ll make a decision about the Paddle and Picnic during the May meeting.

The Paddle-Pedal has a good chance of being canceled; we have \$1,500 allocated to this event – but the NFCT could likely use it elsewhere if we are willing. Sounds good; just require them to use the funds on our rivers, and report to us what they spent the funds on.

Upcoming meetings: May 21 – online. We’ll reschedule the Ctte paddle to the summer.

Wrap up and adjourn: JL motioned; DS seconded. All in favor; meeting ended at 7:38.