

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee
Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21st, 2019
The INN – 241 Main St, Montgomery Center, VT 05871

Attendees: Jacques Couture, Russ Ford, Ellen Fox, John Little, Jim MacCartney, Misty McCartney, Bethany Remmers, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Dan Seeley, Sherry Willey, Jenevra Wetmore, Adele Wolfson, Morgan Powell, Jeff Miller, Cathy Miller, Michael Haas, Steve Wadsworth, and Lindsey Wight

Meeting called to order at 6:35 by JC. Ad hoc Secretary: Bethany Remmers - Thank you Bethany!

Enosburg River Craft Project Presentation:

Steve Wadsworth presented the Enosburg River Craft Project which was funded by the River Community Grant in 2018. The grant funded 2 canoes, 4 kayaks, paddles, and pfd's for public use on the Missisquoi River. A rack was constructed with lumber donated by Sticks & Stuff. He outlined some of the challenges to getting the program started including finding a place to store the boats (they are on the Brownway Trail, near the NFCT campsite), and getting the insurance waiver figured out. He also highlighted the video tutorial that explains the check-out process, from signing out the equipment at the Flying Disc coffee shop to traveling to the storage site. The equipment is free to use. Even though the program didn't start until late July in 2018, more than 30 people used the equipment and they are anticipating much more use for the 2019 season. The boats are being stored under cover in the CHCC barn this winter.

Minutes of the February 17th meeting were reviewed. DS motioned, RF seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Administrative business: a) Lindsey provided an update on the River Community Grants. The Committee has awarded funds to replace snowshoes for the Montgomery Recreation Department and for scholarships for Montgomery students to attend trips led by Montgomery Adventures. The Committee has also awarded funds to Grateful Shreds for a backcountry rescue sled. Doug from the Grateful Treads joined the meeting to discuss the challenges of accepting the funds - there are liability concerns relating to who owns the sled, where the sled is stored and who has the proper training to transport/use the sled. Additional discussions need to happen before the organization makes a decision to accept the award. Lindsey also noted that the Committee is waiting for more information on the Montgomery applications for signage at the town forest and river walk park, as well as for river craft that will be available for use in Montgomery. The Committee also received a grant application to duplicate the youth river trip from last year, offered to students from our Orleans County schools. The grants subcommittee recommended funding it; MM, SW, CS, and WS all motioned and seconded, and this grant application was approved. So far, ~\$33k of the \$60k has been allocated for the 2019 grants.

b) John Little reported that he went to the Montgomery Selectboard to talk about the Missisquoi River Basin Association and Wild & Scenic. Jenevra has created a fact sheet outlining the roles of each organization. John plans to go to all selectboards and will be asking the Wild & Scenic town representative to join him.

c) Lindsey explained that there are extra newsletters. There was discussion on whether to mail the newsletter to adjacent properties or to distribute to selectboards, libraries and local stores. Also recommended to be placed at local businesses.

d) The Committee received an update on the Wild & Scenic yard signage and the 10X10 tent which was purchased to be used for events.

e) Board Members are reminded to turn order forms for their Wild and Scenic apparel and to turn in their evaluation of Lindsey to Jenevra.

National Park Foundation Grant: Jim MacCartney explained that the National Park Foundation grant was created to enable better access to our parks. Jim submitted three applications from our rivers last year but the total requests were 10 times that amount available, and our applications weren't funded. However, we have been invited to resubmit a project from last year – bank stabilization in Westfield. There may also be an additional full 2019 grant round, beyond the invited resubmissions.

North Troy Project: The Committee is hoping to contribute to a river access or viewing area in North Troy. Lindsey will reach out to members of the Troy Promise Community effort to collaborating in identifying what the community wants.

2019 Events: The Feb 23 snowshoe with Franklin County Forester Nancy Patch (8 attendees), and the March 16th trip with Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery (15 attendees) were successes.

At past meetings there was a suggestion to host activities for kids during school breaks. Lindsey noted that she did not have the time to organize these events but would be happy to support any volunteers who would lead the effort.

The Paddle and Picnic from the border to Richford is scheduled for Sunday, June 30th, water level permitting.

Lindsey asked if Committee members had any ideas for the August 18th Wild & Scenic Gathering at Big Falls. The Committee agreed that the format works and did not recommend any changes.

Montgomery River Clean-up will be September 7th and will be organized by Misty McCartney – it will focus more on swimming holes this year.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival: Lindsey is working with Jay Peak Resort to schedule this for late November or early December. The Committee will be looking for sponsors for this event. Committee members should reach out to their contacts for donations from local businesses, either as sponsors, or donation of goods for the raffle.

The Committee discussed the idea of doing a Wild and Scenic Sojourn for the 5th anniversary of the designation. At least one person would paddle all 46 miles of the designated rivers to celebrate and publicize the anniversary. Media blitz before; live streaming/video documentation during. GoPro bow cam? Combine Paddle/Picnic as part of it? The Committee discussed doing it in late June/Mid July and suggested a \$1,500 budget for the event. It was decided to hold off on approving a budget so more details could be worked out.

The Committee discussed holding a "Taste of Wild & Scenic" food event. Misty and Sherry volunteered to explore this idea further.

Next Meeting: April 18th in East Berkshire.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 on a motion by EF; RF seconded.