

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2021 – Zoom

Attendees: Jacques Couture (from sunny Mexico!), Carol Hickey, John Little, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Jeff Parsons, Dan Seeley, Jim MacCartney, Ellen Fox, Russ Ford, Ari Lattanzi, and Lindsey Wight

Introductions; call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:36pm after some conversation about skiing vs white sand... Need a volunteer to take minutes, as Ari will be joining us a bit later – WS volunteers. We also need to appoint a Vice Chair. Carol is nominated. CS motions, JL seconds; all in favor. Thank you Carol for becoming our new Vice Chair!

Review of the November minutes: JL motioned to accept the minutes from the November meeting, CH seconded; minutes were approved as written.

Administrative: Cynthia went over the Quarterly Financial Report for Oct 1- Dec 31. Lindsey shared a breakdown of our financials from 2020, including how her hours were spent, and comparison charts of previous years. DS motioned to approve this report, RF seconded; financial reporting was approved.

Annual report/Newsletter still under development. Will put clickable links into the version that we email out.

Partnership River News – check out the December edition for stories about our river, and others. This publication is a great way to connect people to our Partnership Rivers.

River Community Grants/Storm Impacts Grants: The RFPs have been released; please help spread the word – RCG applications are due Feb 1. Committee members are allowed to partner with organizations to help put forth projects.

Grants subcommittee to help review applications and make funding recommendations to the full Committee: RF, WS, CH, JP, AL, and LW. Thank you!

2020 Grants update: the privy (granted in 2019) was installed at Journey's End on the Long Trail. GMC was able to use their 2020 funds to do stabilization and impact-reduction work along the Long Trail in the Jay Peak region. These final reports are in and complete.

2021 Events: We will monitor state guidance re: COVID before determining if we should hold snowshoe events this Feb/Mar.

Paddle/pedal is currently being planned for early August in partnership with NFCT. Will monitor state guidance, but plan as though it will happen and cancel if need be.

Solstice on the River event: need a subcommittee to plan and organize this – WS and JL volunteer to help Lindsey and Ari.

Wild and Scenic Film Fest: Vermont Natural Resources Council partners with Patagonia Burlington to host this event. We discussed the possibility of partnering with them to host this year's festival. Possibility of holding it at a Drive In.

Art events: Plein Air – outdoor sessions with an instructor should be easy and low cost (instructor, supplies) – we will pursue this one as a start to incorporating more art. Themes for the sessions; do one in a very public place (Brownway? Boston Post view?) and then one that is more “off-the-beaten-track”? Hold a curated show for all the works – at MCA gallery, outdoors in a tent or the Montgomery pavilion, online?

Other art thoughts: Highland Arts is doing self-guided art ski tour. Could do something like this along the Rail Trail, or the Brownway Trail (kids art?) – check with NRPC/Vtrans about the rail trail. Do a show at the Pine Cone, or at the lighthouse church. Partner with Cold Hollow Sculpture Park?

Native arts; modern fiber arts; pinch pots from river clay – pit firing event; student drama performance piece (are students doing drama?); indigenous artist in residence program?

Other event potentials (full moon paddles, youth paddle trips, adult paddle trips, “stroll and float” , we’ll mostly hold off planning for now. Taste of Wild & Scenic: opportunity to partner with Green Mountain Farm to School to see how something like this might go? They typically hold a “Taste of the Kingdom” where local vendors provide samples of their products – flat entry fee is fundraiser. Exchange for helping with their fundraising this year could be them helping us pull off such an event? Possible venues: Jay Peak, Montgomery Rec Center, Big Falls?

Access points: NFCT annually helps us with one of these – suggested locations? East Richford, near the tracks? Lawyer’s Landing is in need of some repairs!

Town Report write-ups: Watch for yours in your town report.

Other/Public Comment: none

Upcoming meetings: Feb 18 - via Zoom. We’ll be making decisions about the River Community Grants, and also discussing next year’s budget.

Signs of the Season: Enosburg: a tour of the town via fatbike, showing off the beauty of the town draped in snow – Ben Maddox put up a video.

Wrap up and Adjourn: JL Motioned, DS seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.