

## Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee

### Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Richford Town Hall

**Attendees:** Sue Brassett, Jacques Couture, Carol Hickey, John Little, Jim MacCartney, Mike Manahan, Cynthia Scott, Susan Staples, Jim Starr, Lindsey Wight, Noah Pollock, Michael Haas, and Jen Haas.

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Jacques Couture. Carol Hickey is acting as secretary for this meeting – thank you Carol!

**Minutes** of the October 19th meeting were reviewed; a typo was noted. JL motioned to accept with the changes mentioned. SS seconded. The minutes were approved with the corrections.

### Administrative Business/Action Update:

- a) **River Community Grants:** We discussed the deadline of the River Community Grants and decided that December 15<sup>th</sup> is too soon. We have extended the deadline to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 – this will enable us to be consistent with the timeline from last year and will enable applicants to have longer time to prepare their proposals, while meeting the timeline of our meetings and allowing the Grants subcommittee time to review the proposals (CS motioned/JS seconded; motion passed).
- b) **2017 River Community Grant reports:** VRC easement and access signage in Richford. Noah Pollock summarized the work done on this project and future plans. The easement was secured and signage was installed. Next summer the site will be improved with an ADA compliant gravel path, a ramp/fishing platform and possibly a camping spot. They will include student workdays in this, and work to make this into a community gathering place. They have partners and have received grant funding for this work, but still have need for additional archeological survey; approx. \$2,800 (see further discussion below).
- c) **Mapping:** Noah also shared some ideas for our river mapping project. It was decided that we should include information about the section of the Missisquoi that is in Canada. Our map sections will fit well onto 18x24" panels – could easily create brochures with information.
- d) **Richford Riverfest:** will be happening again in conjunction with the Paddle/Pedal at the end of June (probably 23<sup>rd</sup>). It would be appreciated if we can play a larger role and bring in more activities to assist the conservation commission. We need more activities and more marketing for this event. We can provide crafts/activities, and perhaps some nature walks – similar to what we did at our W&S Gathering.
- e) Lindsey proposes that we split a subscription to the SA Messenger with the MRBA. SS motioned; MM seconded; so carried.
- f) Lindsey has found some corrugated plastic signs that we can get printed for swimming holes at a cost of \$11-15/sign. She will continue to investigate and will bring potential design options in December. It was mentioned that gentleman in Montgomery created a new sign for MES.
- g) Lindsey has been the coordinator for 2 years! She will create a survey monkey evaluation so that the Committee can evaluate her performance.

**Richford Archeological Phase II Study:** Benefits of this study include the creation of recreational access, but also potential for historical information – project aligns with our values, so we can choose to fund it as one of our independent projects. JS motioned to fund with request for invoice and for a redacted copy of the Study report that we can share on our website and with partners; MM seconded. So carried.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Act next year:** Lindsey will create an event poster to hang everywhere. Can we put the events into the Town Reports (Jay and Lowell, too – 10 towns)? Make sure everyone is using social media to share our events; make sure social media posts are public; it was mentioned that we have \*2\* facebook pages – one from the Study. This is confusing and Lindsey will ask Shana to delete the old one. School newsletters are another good way to get the word out about events and activities, and we discussed using the SA Messenger more – putting all our events, including meetings, into the community calendar, etc. January idea: Taste Of Wild And Scenic – utilize the inns in Montgomery, get local crafters/vendors to show off their wares; likely too short a turnaround this year, can we aim to do this in January 2019? JL will start the conversation with The INN.

2018 Events: **January** – show Saving Our Waters. Lindsey will reach out to PBS to see if we can have permission. **February** – snowshoe events, 1:30-3pm. Feb 3: Jared Nunery will lead – Monastery? Lindsey will ask. Feb 10: Nancy Patch will lead – Doe Camp? **March 12<sup>th</sup>** – W&S film fest at Jay Peak. Lindsey is in contact with the Film Fest folks and with Jay Peak. **April** – bat box building workshop – charge \$10 for box, all materials provided (the 28<sup>th</sup>? Also have the PWSR Trout River Paddle on April 22 and the SORP conference the 23-26<sup>th</sup>, see below). **May** – river rubble recycling during the week after Green-Up Day. Lindsey will reach out to schools. Also: May 19<sup>th</sup>? – Let's Go Fishing event at local school? Lindsey will check with Keith. **June 9<sup>th</sup>** – Paddle & Picnic in Orleans (Lane Rd to Dam?); Paddle/Pedal race will likely be June 23 or 30. **July 14<sup>th</sup>** – Paddle & Picnic in Franklin (Richford to E. Berk, or Lawyer's Landing to iron bridge and then back?). **August 26<sup>th</sup>** – W&S Gathering at Big Falls. **September 8<sup>th</sup>** – River Clean-Up in Montgomery. **October 6<sup>th</sup>** – Plein Air. **November 4<sup>th</sup>** – Fire along the River at Riverwalk Park. **December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Solstice potluck.

#### **Other Events/Planning:**

- a) Kim Royar – mammals in our changing landscape. December 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 at the Enosburg High School Library.
- b) April 22 – paddle on the Trout; 2-5pm. Invite NPS and PWSR folks. Lindsey will look into getting canoes and a shuttle.
- c) Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals April 23-26. Sponsorship is \$1,500 for a table and one conference attendance. CH motioned to sponsor; SB seconded. Motion was carried.
- d) June 23 – NFCT Paddle/Pedal and Richford River Fest – we will brainstorm activities ideas that we can provide to increase the attraction of the Fest.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

December 21 – Orleans County – Westfield – POTLUCK!  
January 18 – Franklin County – Berkshire? The INN?  
February 15 – Orleans County – North Troy?

#### **Other/Public Comment:**

Our guests, the Haas', mentioned that they noticed tremendous damage on the riverbanks along their property in Lowell, from ATV use. Everyone they talked to (riders, VAST, VASA) was very pleasant and certainly not doing this damage maliciously. VAST/VASA was responsive with repair work. Perhaps we could assist with a campaign, to make sure that trail users know that they present a significant threat to the river through overuse. If we can do some educational outreach and partner with other groups, we could help the rivers.

**Wrap up and adjourn:** MM motioned that we adjourn; SB seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.