

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

Thursday, June 21, 2018 – Lowell Town Office, Lowell

Attendees: Jacques Couture, Russ Ford, Carol Hickey, John Little, Jim MacCartney, Mike Manahan, Misty McCartney, Anne McKay, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Sherry Willey, and Lindsey Wight.

Meeting called to order at 6:56 pm by Jacques Couture (Lindsey apologizes for being late and causing worry!). Wendy was our secretary for this meeting – thank you Wendy!

Minutes of the May 17th meeting were reviewed. JL motioned; CH seconded; minutes approved as written.

Administrative Business: 19 people, in 16 boats, enjoyed the Paddle and Picnic on June 9th. 3 parties came up from the Burlington area, so we are getting a wider audience! The next Paddle and Picnic will be July 14th – Lawyer’s Landing in Enosburg; and up-and-back paddle.

Professor from Northern Arizona University is doing a study on Wild and Scenic Rivers and how communities benefit from designation. She will be at our July meeting, and will do a presentation of her research. We will use a large part of the meeting to hold a focus group. The Committee compiled a list of names that should be invited to the focus group.

Misty McCartney was nominated to be Vice Chair – JL nominated/WS seconded. All in favor – welcome aboard as VC Misty!

Check in with Lowell regarding interest in pursuing expanding our W&S region to include the Missisquoi headwaters? It was a close vote originally – would need to know by ~November if we wanted to pursue another vote at Town Meeting in March. Some counsel that we should become more visible before pursuing – spread the word, get more Lowell residents involved, get more projects installed and stories in papers. Consensus was to start conversation with folks we know to gauge overall interest, but not push at this time.

Financials/Projects: Access point in Westfield has been installed by the NFCT crew – a new trail and a removable set of steps make getting in to the river much easier. This location lends itself well to an ~4 mile paddle to Chase Dam. Next steps include getting signage made and looking into the suggestion that we put down gravel and seed to stabilize and protect against invasives.

Swimming hole signs have been ordered through the Dept of Corrections.

Follow up with old gas tanks: all the ones that were on our “worried about” list are confirmed to have been removed. One of the locations has contaminated soils, but this is being actively monitored.

W&S logo wear: interest in t-shirts, vests, polos, patches. Could shirts have mission statement (‘protect, promote, preserve’) on the back? Lindsey will bring some ideas to the July meeting.

Honoring Jim: Some suggestions included setting up a scholarship or a memorial. Committee members with experience setting up scholarships suggested that a memorial might be more in line with our mission. Lindsey will reach out to the North Troy Trustees to gauge the interest of the Village in pursuing improving the recreation area along Dominion Ave as a memorial.

Children’s book: Susan Staples has expressed interest in working on this project. The Committee would like to see a brief proposal; Lindsey will let Susan know and will connect her with Suzanne from the Lamprey who created a children’s book.

Vision and Strategic Plan: The subcommittee has focused on the Mission Statement and Action Plan. Homework = give feedback/make suggestions to flesh this out so that the subcommittee can bring a second draft to the July meeting. Submit to Lindsey by end of June.

Events: Richford River Fest and Paddle-Pedal on June 23 – Volunteers needed! 8:15-12 to volunteer to help with the race. 9-11 to help set up. 11-2 to help at the event. 2-3 to help break down. 3pm on Friday the 22nd to help get the tent set up.

July 14th – Paddle and Picnic in Enosburg. We'll put-in at Lawyer's Landing. Could borrow a smoothie bike from RiseVT if someone is willing to man it.

August 26 – W&S Gathering: Lindsey will reach out to the Missisquoi River Band. Can we get a tent/bandshell for them, and for more of the event?.

Sept 8 – Clean-Up in Montgomery. 12-4pm event, with 3-4 being a bbq for participants? Keith will help out and can bring boats. Misty suggested 3 zones with leaders in each. MCC may partner.

Other: Film showing of DamNation, and potentially other films – Jay Theater? Enosburg EMS building? Montgomery Grange? Westfield Community Center?

Ideas: Float-a-palooza event next year?

Upcoming Meetings:

July 19 – Orleans County – Westfield

August 9 – Franklin County – Enosburg?

September 20 – Orleans County – North Troy?

Wrap up and adjourn: JL moved/CS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.