

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee

Minutes Thursday March 16th, 2016 Richford Town Hall

Attendees: Stacy Carpenter, Jacques Couture, Charen Fegard, Russ Ford, Sterling Ford, Ellen Fox, Karen Hamelin, John Little, Chip Morin, Cynthia Scott, Susan Staples, Jim Starr, and Lindsey Wight.

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Jacques Couture. Cynthia Scott is acting as secretary for this meeting. (Thank you Cynthia!)

Minutes of the February 2nd meeting were reviewed. JS motioned to accept, SS seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Administrative Business: Unfortunately, due to the freezing temperatures, we had no takers for our Full Moon Snowshoe at Big Falls. May we have better luck next year!

Lindsey bounced around the idea of seeking grant funds to get a trail building crew to Big Falls, so there would be foot access from the picnic area below up to the falls. Concern was expressed about being sure to keep a small footprint, so that there is not overuse or abuse of the area.

No officers are up for re-election this year; we will keep having a rotating secretary for meetings.

River Community Grants Program: Sent out notifications and checks for ½ the granted amount to each of the awardees: Vermont River Conservancy, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, North Troy School, and Franklin County Natural Conservation District.

Can we get copies of the lesson plans that the North Troy school will be creating, and can we hear when they will have experts visiting the site? Lindsey will inquire.

Event Display: There are 3 choices regarding the display banner: the background image, the text direction, and the color of the text. The Committee selected the covered bridge background image with horizontal text and black text.

Lindsey will print and laminate items for the table-top display. Suggestion included: iconic photos, photos of people using the rivers, our logo, a map of the rivers, news about the grant program, information about the Committee, information about invasives, information about what lives in the water (i.e. fish, macroinvertebrates), our website – for more info, request for volunteers, request for donations, a sleeve for a changeable calendar of events, information about the Management Plan, action photos of people pulling trash out of the river (i.e. the couch). Instead of laminating everything, we could use blank laminate pockets, so that we can change the information around as needed.

Mapping: Question about whether we should include NFCT campsites in our map – Lindsey will inquire, or perhaps we should just direct people to the NFCT if they are planning on multi-day trips? Some locations called out included: fishing spot off Marvin Rd near the stone house, the ledges below this fishing spot, big rocks in river (picnic spot? – accessible from the water only), abandoned mill and ledges past E. Berkshire – Sampsonville Dam (Rail Trail, picnic, swimming), Brownway Conservation Area (birding/photography/boating/fishing), public access below and above the 105 bridge in North Troy – village-owns all the way to Canada (behind the Legion), possible public access on Moulton's property in Troy – contact names: Judd, Bruce Urie (VLT), VCHB?, Skunk

Hollow – dam being proposed? (Hilton Dryer), possible access on property across from the sewage plant (Helene's).

Use icons to pinpoint spots of interest – differentiate types of interest (bird vs canoe access vs photo ops). More information is best, since it'll be interactive. Can we make a menu where you can select for interest – and also click on a location and see what interests are there? Can we do layers somehow, for flowers/camera/boat/fish/etc.

Charen shared that the Dept of Corrections in Newport has a printshop that NPOs are allowed to use; much cheaper than Staples. For future reference: they will build kiosks.

Events/Planning: July 22nd Paddle and Picnic – we will need to heavily advertise. We will require RSVPs, and then will provide canoes (talk to Montgomery Adventures) and food. RiseVT may be able to assist with this. **August 5th Full Moon Paddle** in the Enosburgh area (put in at Lawyer's Landing?). We will advertise that we can provide boats (again, talk to Montgomery Adventures). **August 20th Gathering at Big Falls** – we should have an educational component: get a Bugworks session scheduled; see if we can get a Wild Edibles walk/talk; Fishing or Fly-Tying demo? a walk/talk about the special habitats at Big Falls (Jared Nunery?); paddle; kids activities – i.e. give our river a personality; other. Partner with a local organization to provide food – the Troy School, or the History Society?

Co-sponsored events: April 18th River Corridors workshop; May 21st Bird Walk with ECC; June 24th Paddle/Pedal and Richford Riverfest; June 29th MRBA music/water quality awareness event; NFCT guided paddles; July 22-30 Moth Week – Lindsey would like the Committee to purchase a transportable light (battery operated, or link to a car outlet) for this event.

Other ideas, or ideas that could be looped into some of our events: Host a “**Painting Along the River**” outing for artists? Needs: instruction, easels, paints and canvases – along the Rail Trail? Hold a “**River Rubble Recycling**” event for kids in the summer – create art from debris pulled from river banks – join with the Notch day camps? Thursdays – regular swimming hole clean-ups throughout the summer.

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 18th – Franklin County – Berkshire?
- June 15th – Orleans County – Westfield?
- July 20th – Franklin County – Enosburgh?

Other/Public Comment: Stacy Carpenter is a nurse with the Dept of Health, works with chronic disease prevention and RiseVT – she is working to bring wellness opportunities to the Enosburgh community, and amplify what is already going on. They have a smoothie bike – perhaps we can incorporate that into future events.

Longley Bridge repairs have started.

Lindsey showed off the donated Anabats – we will be able to use these for outreach at bat programs and other this summer.

Russ asked where we stand, getting a sign for the office. Lindsey will move that up the to-do list.

Wrap up and adjourn: JL motioned that we adjourn; CS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.