

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

Thursday, August 9, 2018 – Enosburg EMS Building, Enosburg Falls

Attendees: Sue Brassett, Jacques Couture, Russ Ford, Carol Hickey, John Little, Jim MacCartney, Mike Manahan, Misty McCartney, Larry Benoit, and Lindsey Wight.

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm by Jacques Couture. Carol was our secretary for this meeting – thank you Carol!

Minutes of the July 19th meeting were reviewed. JC motioned to accept the minutes with the noted change; MM seconded; minutes approved.

Administrative Business: Possibly opportunity to move the office was discussed. There is no need to move, this is option just cropped up. Pros and cons were discussed, but no conclusion was reached.

Lindsey intends to get an official email account for our ECO AmeriCorps member, could cost an extra \$3/month, but is within budget.

Events: August 26 – W&S Gathering: We have permits, the village will mow the field, a port-o-let is booked, 5-6 presenters are confirmed (Bugworks, forest walk/ecology activity, bird walk, paddling lessons, tree climbing), and planned activities (i.e. face painting, stained-glass paper craft, games). The food plan still needs to be finalized – pizza/sandwich bar? Should we do a floating parade instead of the zucchini regatta? Ads for papers, radio (VMOO, VPR), WCAX community events. Committee approved up to \$300 for ads on both sides of the mountain. More poison ivy on site than last year – get goats to knock it back?? (probably not time; maybe next year?).

NEEDS: pop-up tents, tables, a bull horn?, **VOLUNTEERS:** set-up from 10-11, man an activity from 11-2, roving assistance from 11-2, photos from 11-2, break down from 2-2:30. Folks who can be there include: CH (and VH), MMc, SW, MM, JC. Thank you!

Other thoughts: Rise VT has games and a smoothie bike that Lindsey is working to borrow (CH says she can transport the smoothie bike). Can our events be “pay it forward” events, so that food is available to folks (especially youth) in need?

Sept 8 – River Clean-Up in Montgomery; co-hosted with Mont Cons Comm. 12-3pm. Participants will receive tshirts, Ben and Jerry’s vouchers, tram ride vouchers and pizza and ice cream at 2pm at Riverwalk Park. There will be 2 zones; Lindsey and Keith will be zone leaders. Sign-ups are at Sylvester’s and Jolley, and online.

Oct 6 – Plein Air Painting. Suggested location is Abe Barnard’s Field – view of Jay Peak behind Longley Bridge.

Nov 4 - Bonfire Along The River, at Riverwalk Park.

Dec 20 – Solstice potluck in Richford. Lindsey will inquire about the Notch Pinnacle Room. Could also do EMB Building.

Projects: Professional photographer with drone; highlight our ORVs? \$175/site plus \$50 if we want video footage. MMc suggests we start with 5 locations; RF seconds; all in favor. Suggested locations include Big Falls, the gorges in North Troy, 3 Holes, a paddling shot/location (paddling downstream toward you from the air makes for a cool shot); kiln and serpentine rocks; black falls. Think ORVS: Scenic and Rec = swimming holes, canoe trail, rail trail, big falls, fishing; Natural Resources = rock outcrops, big falls; WQ = fish; Historical and Cultural = covered bridges, native Am sites. Decided covered bridges can be captured without a drone, that drone footage doesn’t enhance much. Can we get some underwater stuff? Lindsey will ask Roguen, and/or reach out to Ben Maddox.

Could use these photos to kick off a photo contest?

Swimming hole signs – continue to put around and offer to landowners.

Water testing kits; purchased 3, will make available to schools/groups. We could expand on this and provide “backpacks” (drybags???) to loan to schools. Do more outreach and education.

Road signs – We can move ahead with making road signs and offering them to town roads. We’ll need at least 18, and some extras. Different road types will have different specs, so Lindsey and Jim will look into these and get signs ordered.

Tshirts – Lindsey brought some final tshirt options. The Committee decided to get 2 fronts – one with logo, one with text – and the same back (map, logo/name, “Paddle Promote Protect” printed on royal blue. Lindsey will place and order and hope to have the logo-fronted shirts for Committee use at the Gathering and the text-fronted ones as give-aways at the Clean-up.

Should we also have a “uniform” allowance for Committee members - \$75 for Committee members to choose how to spend on logo gear? RF motions; MM seconds; all in favor.

North Troy Rec Area – Fishing platform down by the river on the Village owned property. \$5k in our budget for this project. Work with Village trustees to figure out who should provide oversight for a contractor (trustees or us?). Will likely need 30/60/90 design plans, and will need to work out what the vision is prior to design phase. Also include a plaque or bench for Jim. Could bring a poster board to collect ideas at the Gathering.

We’ll want to keep it local – find a local firm who can work on trails, do survey work. Lindsey will ask some folks who have been involved with community work (NRPC) – the firm will need to know parks, diverse interest, how to guide visions, do CAD, survey work, etc.

Lindsey will invite the North Troy trustees and other players to our September meeting, since it will be in N. Troy.

Other: Enosburg Falls hydro will relicense in 2023 – they are initiating the process now. There will be a Pre Application Doc, with public notice. This will include a site visit. If you see public notice about this, be sure to let Jim know so that he can attend. Our concerns include access above and below the dam.

The East Richford bridge is still under construction. MRBA has a water quality monitoring site there, haven’t noticed any alarming results.

Upcoming Meetings:

September 20 – Orleans County – North Troy? – Sue will look into the Troy Town Office; new spot!

October 18 – Franklin County – Berkshire?

November 15 – Orleans County – Lowell?

Wrap up and adjourn: JC motions, SB seconds; meeting is adjourned at 8:31pm.