

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee
Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18th, 2019
Berkshire Town Office – 4454 Water Tower Rd Enosburg Falls

Attendees: Jacques Couture, Russ Ford, Carol Hickey, John Little, Jim MacCartney, Bethany Remmers, Keith Sampietro, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Dan Seeley, Jenevra Wetmore, Lindsey Wight,

Meeting called to order at 6:40 by Jacques Couture. Ad hoc Secretary: Wendy Scott - Thank you Wendy!

Minutes of the March 21st meeting were reviewed. CH motioned; CS seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Administrative business:

- a) We have been approved for an ECO AmeriCorps member for next year
- b) Review of Cynthia's financial report for Jan-Mar 2019.
- c) Event tent: an event tent would be useful for Wild and Scenic and for regional partners. We might be able to get a 32" x 16" tent for ~\$700. The durability of the tent is important and LW will look into durability and price options further. JC talked about a type of tent that has pipes that fit together. The committee agrees that it would be good to have a tent.
- d) Drone Footage: Roguen could capture more pictures and video footage and Wild and Scenic could put this on Youtube. JW will upload the videos we already have (including videos from grant projects) and create a youtube channel. WS made a motion to do the video/stills in 2 sites; CH seconded; all in favor. JL volunteered to take Roguen into the gorges. Other possible locations listed: Samsonville, Richford rapids, more covered bridges, more waterfalls (3 holes/big falls?). It would also be great to get some unique footage of the Sojourn – discussion of purchasing a GoPro. Would be good to get baseline footage of the entire stretch; eventually things will move around in the river and we'd like to have a baseline to compare to.
- e) Budget: Next month we should approve our yearly budget. Committee members should think about how we want to spend the money, and if we want to fund larger projects. We will receive the same amount of funding as last year. Jim suggested working with towns who already have projects in mind.
- f) Select Board visits: JL and LW have already covered Troy and N Troy. They were met with interest from the town and are anticipating a grant proposal. JL went over the info he gives at these meetings. JL asked committee members to email him as to which town they represent and assist in presenting at meetings. CS will assist for Enosburg Village and WS for Enosburg town. CH made the point that many towns and individuals do not know about Wild and Scenic and would appreciate it as a resource.
- g) River Community Grants: All grant recipients are approved and have received checks except for the Montgomery Conservation Commission. We are still awaiting additional information before approving their requests.
- h) Wild and Scenic logo products: Lindsey will order new stickers with a larger logo, LW and JW will research whistles, DS motioned/RF seconded to print 100 t-shirts with UMATR logo and definition on them.

National Park Foundation Grant:

With Jim's help, Wild and Scenic received a bank stabilization grant for a project in Westfield from the NPF. The goal is to complete the project by the end of the year. VYCC will do hand work after machinery is done. Jim made the point that some of the sponsors are interested in sustainability, leave no trace, and clean water, so the project should be aware of these values. CH suggested that JC take pictures of the site before work begins.

LW raised the issue of monitoring the success of this project and others and suggested the committee purchase a turbidity meter. This could be used on other remediation projects in the future, and would cost ~\$900. The budget can support this expense. RF motioned to spend up to \$1000 on the turbidity meter, CS seconded. All in favor.

Projects:

- a) No updates on the N Troy fishing platform.
- b) Poison ivy at Big Falls: there is a possibility of using goats for poison ivy control before the celebration in August. JW reached out to Kimberly at UVM extension, who has experience with grazing for invasive plants and poison ivy. Forest Parks and Rec were not on board but may support the plan with additional information. LW and JW will pursue this discussion.
- c) Sojourn: June 2-12 is the window of possible dates for paddling the entire length of the river, likely consisting of 4-5 paddling days. JL and RF will lead this trip. RF is leading a NFCT event on June 8 that he could loop into the sojourn. WS motioned to commit \$2000 to the sojourn CH seconded. JC asked if our budget would support this and LW confirmed that it would. All in favor.
- d) River Explorers Trip: August 5-9, overnight trip on the river. Open to 11-14 year olds. The committee is offering scholarships to students for this trip. Applications are online and paper versions were passed around.
- e) Lowell/Westfield access: There is a possible access point on the Lowell/Westfield line, but there is indication that Lowell may not want additional visitors to the area. Brault's slaughterhouse might be interested in having an access point on their property and some additional clean up done. LW will stop in at Brault's to check in with them. JC suggested a potential site on Loop Rd in Westfield and RF suggested looking at the Samsonville dam in the future – both for access, and for concerns about debris/rebar that is remaining in the river.
- f) Longley Bridge Rd: Montgomery received a transportation grant to address the badly eroding bank that is threatening the road. The design will likely be done within a year. Jim should be included during this phase. There is also more erosion happening below the target area that could/should be addressed in conjunction.

Events:

The Paddle/Pedal is June 22nd. The Paddle and Picnic is June 30th. The W&S Gathering is Aug 18th. KS offered to do a 'lets go fishing' program targeted at 5th-7th graders.

The next meeting is in Lowell on May 16th. CS motioned; CH seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.