

## Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee

### Minutes

Thursday, August 17, 2017

North Troy Community Building

**Attendees:** Helene Croteau, Carol Hickey, Emma Lord, Mike Manahan, Jim McCartney, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Susan Staples, Jim Starr, and Lindsey Wight. Great snacks were provided by our local appointees – thanks for all the goodies!

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Lindsey Wight. Wendy Scott is acting as secretary for this meeting – thank you Wendy!

We welcomed Emma Lord, a Fellow with the National Park Service, who is working with Jim.

Susan Staples was nominated to be Vice Chair by CS; WS seconded. All were in favor, and Susan has been appointed as our Vice Chair.

**Minutes** of the July 20th meeting were reviewed. JS motioned to accept. MM seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

**Administrative Business:** The Paddle and Picnic was well-attended, with 32 people and 27 boats. The weather was perfect and people seemed to enjoy the journey.

The Full Moon Paddle was also well attended; 17 people came out despite a rainy afternoon – we remained dry and were (eventually) rewarded by the moon peeking out from behind the clouds.

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, staffers from the US Senate Interior Appropriations Committee (2 from Burlington and 5 from DC) joined Lindsey, John, and Russ on a short paddle from Davis Park to the stone house. It was a beautiful morning, and we had an eagle show off a little of the majesty of our river.

River Community Grants: Educational river programming with NOTCH camps in Richford has wrapped up. Jeff Parsons will be working with North Troy teachers to formulate curriculum for use on their new riverfront property. The initial meeting with the science teachers will be Monday, Aug 21 at 8am at the Troy School.

**Logo Items:** Stickers, bottles, and whistles are here! The hats are being embroidered locally, and Lindsey will bring them when available. Lindsey ended up doing a smaller hat order, as the hats we originally selected were not available – we can do a second run after we see how these “one-size-fits-all” hats work.

**Access Points:** Lindsey has spoken with landowners along Lane Rd, and at the Lowell/Westfield town line. Both landowners are amenable to having improved access installed/constructed. Lindsey also spoke with Noah Pollock about what structures might work. The Lane Rd spot is suitable for a set of removable steps – low impact and relatively easy to construct. The other location will likely require some permanent construction. Lindsey will continue to work with the landowners and Noah to develop plans; we hope to implement these projects this fall.

**Mapping:** The group split up and spent some time making notations about interesting/scenic/important spots along the rivers and in the surrounding areas on the large town maps that Lindsey got from the Regional Planning Commissions. It was suggested that Lindsey attempt to provide smaller maps that can be used for “homework”, and also shared with other community members to get their input.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Act:** Brainstorming session was very successful! We had so many great ideas, that we decided we should try to plan something every month for the entire year. We will partner with some organizations, and just add a W&S facet to their events. Next month we will create a calendar of events and start planning these! Our list of ideas included:

- River Clean-Up – September is River Clean-Up Month, so we could plan ahead to do something similar to Green-Up Day next year. But Misty learned during the webinar she attended that we should have a thanks event another time, not right after the clean-up.  
We could also offer a clean-up in conjunction or addition to the Richford Paddle/Pedal. Or at least give out bags to the recreational class “competitors”.
- Snowshoeing events again (like we did last year in Westfield and in Enosburg Falls)
- Paddle and Picnic again (but not the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July this time!)
- Art event – painting on the Rail Trail? Possible leaders: Pat Murphy or Robert (Wendy’s friend)
- Guided bike ride along the Rail Trail
- Nighttime light-up paddle (think xmas lights on boats) – bring in the Bridge of Flowers & Light somehow?
- W&S Gathering – depending on how this one goes!
- W&S Film Fest – at Jay Peak’s new theater? Capture the skier audience – mid-March? Steer clear of school vacations (1<sup>st</sup> week in March). Lindsey will keep in touch with the VNRC, so we don’t conflict with their offering of the Fest in Burlington
- Tubing event in the summer
- Fishing event – but hard to compete with trophy trout stocked in Enosburg. Have fish and Game help?  
Free fishing day – we could sponsor a fly-fishing demo/instruction
- Food event
- Vernal pool workshop
- Big falls tour with naturalists
- Wild edibles walk
- River Rubble Recycling, with school kids – art classes go down to the river and harvest materials?
- Wild & Scenic Bugworks – bug workshop

**Events/Planning:** August 20<sup>th</sup> – Wild and Scenic Gathering at Big Falls — THIS WEEKEND. Be there! ☺

The Village of North Troy has asked if we can assist with the cost of brush-hogging the field below the falls. SS moved that we split the cost with the Village, HC seconded. All in favor; so moved.

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals conference will be in Burlington in April 2018. For \$1,000, we could have a table and be visible to attendees (also get to attend for that cost). Lindsey has reached out to see if we can get an estimate of attendees and what regions will be presented.

Fall speakers – Ben Killiam present on bears? Andy Timmons (NH Fish and Game)? Kim Royar present on bobcats? Barry Genzlinger present on bats? We should have speakers on both sides of the mountain – Enosburgh EMS building lends itself well, as does the Westfield Community Center, but there is also space in the North Troy Community Building that could hold a crowd.

September 16<sup>th</sup> Swimming Hole Clean-Ups – rally residents to clean-up the swimming holes that we enjoyed during the summer! Lindsey will get bags and put them and sign-up sheets at Sylvester’s and a few other locations. Get a bag, sign-up for a spot, leave the bags on the roadside. Lindsey will collect them for disposal. Then we can run and ad to thank the folks who assisted.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

September 14 – Franklin County – Montgomery – CHANGE OF DATE due to a conflict of Lindsey’s  
October 19 – Orleans County – Lowell?  
November 16 – Franklin County – Richford?

**Other/Public Comment:** The printer has died; Lindsey plans to use the budgeted computing funds to replace it, as well as get the computer cleaned up (it has gotten slow).

**Wrap up and adjourn:** MMc motioned that we adjourn; SS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.