

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

Thursday, November 21, 2019 – Westfield Community Center, Westfield

Attendees: Carol Hickey, John Little, Jim MacCartney, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Dan Seeley, Ranier Lucas, Lindsey Wight, and Matt Dickstein

Meeting called to order at 6:35. John was our secretary for this meeting. Thank you John!

Review of the September and October minutes. WS motioned to approve the September minutes; DS seconded; September minutes approved as written. WS motioned to approve the October minutes; DS seconded; October minutes approved as written.

River Community Grants: Matt Dickstein came to present on the NCSU Encore program's Summer On The River week. 14 5th-8th grade students (one left partway through) from the Lowell, Jay-Westfield, and Troy schools enjoyed a 5 day/4 night canoe trip July 15-19, 2019. They put in in Richford and paddled to the Sheldon Dam, with a layover day at Doe Camp. Stayed at Doe Camp, Brownway, and Lussier. A nice 6-minute video is available on youtube. All the students said they had a great time; some had never camped before and about half had never paddled a boat before. In the future, it would be great to spend a day on the water, doing obstacle-driving skills-building activities and familiarizing students with paddling.

Lindsey is planning to announce the 2020 River Community Grant round by mid-December. We discussed the current application form and ways to make sure that the applicants are giving the information that we need. Ideas included: checklists, adjusting the approach to getting thing aligned with our Management Plan, and having an editor look it over (DS will see if Adele is willing). Lindsey and Ranier will work on updating this, and Lindsey will send around the new application via email for Committee approval.

Projects: Lindsey had a conversation with Lydia at the Vermont River Conservancy about public land and easements. There are several possibilities for collaboration: Lawyer's Landing; Demar Rd property; Sampsonville access. Lindsey mentioned contracting with the VRC to cover time for them to focus specifically on these opportunities along our W&S rivers; Lydia was interested; these conversations will continue in the near future.

Combs Rd culvert near Black Falls held up well in the fall storms, despite being recent construction. Bethany will do a show-and-tell at a future meeting.

Longley Bridge Rd – the Town is starting the process, but the timeline will likely be long (construction in 2021?). Would make sense to add the Barnard property to the design work; Lindsey has mentioned that we'd be interested in helping to fund a combined de:30sign effort to the team working on the Longley Bridge repair, and will also apply for some design funds via the MRBA.

Mill Brook: our funding has been extended until the spring, so this project will be fully designed over the winter and will be shovel-ready as soon as we can get in-stream in the spring. Jim will connect with the NRCS about the final design plans.

Project priorities for 2020: LNT workshop in the spring. Green Mountain Club can lead. Access points – discuss with NFCT (Davis; Lawyer's; Brownway upstream). Also discussed the projects that we wrote into the budget (Westfield AOP; Longley Bridge Rd bank stabilization; Sampsonville access). Also, Lindsey and Ranier will revisit getting road signs!

Wild and Scenic Film Festival: Thank you to Committee members for arranging items from our sponsors; we will have a good raffle! Entry fee for the festival will be \$15. We will sell the pint cups for \$5 – you'll also get a reduced price on beer with the reusable cups. What UMATR swag should we give/raffle? A UMATR "gift basket" with all our goodies; aluminum bottles as door prizes; tshirts as door prizes – bring all sizes and say "see us after to exchange".

Volunteer shifts: 4:30 for set up (DS, AW); 5-6:30 and during intermission for ticket sales (CH, WS); all night photos (LW will bring JL a camera; everyone please take photos with your phones, too!); 5-6:30 National Partners/info table (JC, JL); lights in the theater and raffle assistance (WS); 9:00 Clean-up (WS, DS, AW).

Newsletter: Will attempt to have finalized before the holiday. Ranier has roughed it out – let us know if you have anything you want to add, or if you'd like to write something up. We need a volunteer to be highlighted under "Meet Our Committee Members". No one volunteered; Lindsey will draw a name out of a hat and be in touch.

2020 Events: Things we want to do: snowshoes, Paddle/Pedal race (usually 3rd or 4th week of June – 18th or 24th), Paddle and Picnic – Trout River? So early in the season (early June?); Film Festival – do one in 2020, but might need to be close to VNRC's, or do one in Feb 2021. Lindsey will ask during her wrap-up call from this event.; also – new idea – and adult overnight paddle adventure, staying at Doe Campsite (possibly Saturday July 25th). We will firm up dates during the December meeting, so that Lindsey can add them to the newsletter just prior to printing.

Upcoming meetings: December 19 – Franklin County – Montgomery at **6pm** at *The INN*
January 16 – Orleans County – Lowell?
February 20 – Franklin County – Berkshire?

Wrap up and adjourn: WS motioned; DS seconded. All in favor; meeting ended at 8:35.