

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 16th, 2022 6:30 PM – Westfield Community Center and Zoom

Attendees: Susan Staples, Russ Ford, Dan Seeley, Jacques Couture, John Little, and Lindsey Wight in person, and Dean Pierce, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Jim MacCartney, and Sarah Lunn via zoom.

1) Hello and nice to SEE everyone!

- Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

2) Review and approve May Meeting Minutes

- DS made motion to approve, SS seconded. Minutes approved.
- SS will help take notes for this meeting.

3) Office building update

- JL gave us a synopsis of the work so far, and the hoped-for timeline. Exciting stuff!

4) New Access Point on River Rd in Troy. Next year: East Richford? Purchase property???

- Stone steps have been installed by the NFCT interns installing it. Great spot because it was already being used, and has been a spot of paddles before!
- May be more expensive than originally budgeted due to an equipment issue
- Next year - East Richford, near border station. Has been gated by local land owner who wants to build house for his kids. LW suggested we could inquire about purchasing a small corner of the parcel that would allow an implementation of a river access point (and NFCT campsite?). Great location in Richford for a fun river.
- JL knows the owner, currently being caretaken by his son.
- LW was given permission to delicately pursue; if the landowner is interested, the Committee will consider (though we would want another entity to take ownership).

5) 2022 Events:

- June 26th (Sunday) - Paddle and Picnic; East Berkshire to Enosburg. RF can help trailer to boats.
- July 16th (Saturday) - Paddle/Pedal - please hang flyers in your towns; lawn signs if you have a location to put them.
- July 9th - Paddle Instruction and tour - flatwater: Lawyer's Landing up and back. WS says she can assist with this.
- August 7th - Paddle Instruction and tour - class I/II: behind the Monastery. RF says he can assist with this.
- Youth paddle trips - MRBA has received funding for ANM trip- would UMATR like to co-sponsor? Yes: it would be good to maintain/foster this relationship. Also, NPS is encouraging tribal engagement.
Considering 3 days/2 nights - should we do it up-watershed (W&S region), or closer to the lake, and perhaps incorporate the war canoe (if ANM is interested in that)?
 - Do we want to offer some youth day trips this summer? (no; we have enough going on)
- Fall - Film Fest: October 15th. Can we time it so that people leave Bean and Brew and walk right across the parking lot to our event?
- Potential Fall events: birding along the river (rail trail? Other locations?); citizen science training?

- SS suggests mid-August event at Big Falls to increase our chances of seeing birds (warblers). Bridget provides programs for ~\$500, but she is busy!
- The main goal would be to get birders to come up to our region. Could we set up a “driving tour” and highlight 5 spots to explore the watershed from a birding perspective. This could be created over the winter and publicized in the spring.
 - Spring event: early next June could we do a Bicknell’s search at Jay/Big Jay? Maybe a dawn tram ride, then listen for Bicknell’s and have someone lead bird habitat interpretation up there.
 - Arctic birds and CA birds moving around!

6) Other events: All are invited to the MRBA clean-up tomorrow (Friday the 17th). Meet at Boston Post Dairy at 4 and enjoy burgers and hotdogs at the Brownway Trail after the event.

July 30th: ANM will be holding another celebration at MAC’s Bend on the Refuge. Come take a ride in the Voyager canoe and enjoy a Watershed Wildlife presentation from VINS (funded by MRBA)!

7) Projects: Longley Rd. Sampsonville. More bank stabilization in Westfield? Culvert work for AOP. Need more marketing about our projects!

8) BWQC and new State funding stream - LW gave an overview of this new system. Suggestion: look at the that is being brought into the region via grain trucks - is this source being accounted for in the models?

9) Other/Public Comment - DS asked if the Town Infrastructure check has been sent to Richford; yes, in the spring they should have received the first half of the grant payment - mailed to the town.

Also, extra funds for Richford trail - could they use these for more of the trail system (not just the part leading to the river) - needs a bridge across the gully. Committee approves this slight alteration.

10) Upcoming Meetings

- July 21 - location suggestions? Hybrid needed? Montgomery Rec (if don’t need service)

11) Wrap Up and adjourn

- RF motioned to adjourn, DS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.