

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, August 17th, 2023 6:30 PM – Standish Property in North Troy (near American Legion)

Attendees: Jacques Couture, Wendy Scott, John Little, Susan Staples, Dan Seeley, Jenn Grace, Jim McCartney, Ellen Fox, Rich and Ruth Burton, and Lindsey Wight

This meeting started with a tour of the Standish Property off Dominion Ave. Ellen Fox of the MRBA led us through the property and discussed some possible projects. MRBA is in discussions with the Village about leasing the property to start a native plant nursery, to grow trees and shrubs for conservation projects.

Meeting portion was called to order at 8:00m. Introductions were made; Jenn Grace is a Westfield resident and interested in joining our Committee – welcome Jenn!

Review of the July meeting minutes (Thanks Wendy!): DS motioned to approve; WS seconded; minutes approved as written.

Updates on business from the July meeting: The office signs are ready for pick-up! Lindsey will go get them tomorrow, and work with John to get them mounted. Exciting!

Event Overview: Guided Nature Paddle with Jared Nunery on Aug 11 was a great success. 18 people enjoyed the tour from Lane Rd in Westfield to River Rd in Troy. Highlighted riparian planting projects (MRBA and other partners, including landowners) from 2016 (Moulton) to 2020 (Breault) to 2021 (O'Donnell) to 2022 (Troy) – a cool look at a stretch of river that has had a LOT of good conservation work applied to it. Would love to do it again; Jared seemed amenable to considering both the snowshoe and a paddle.

Grants/Projects: The 2024 River Community Grants round is OPEN. Applications are due October 1; please share out the announcement!

Videography Interns – thanks to those who gave interviews. Still a few videos in the works – highlighting Richford-East Berkshire, hope to also highlight East Richford (new access point) to Richford.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival: Please reach out to financial sponsors and for raffle prizes; also help market!

2023 Upcoming UMATR Events: September 9: Swimming Hole Clean-Up. Participants will get gift certificate to a local business – ideas? Café Oma, Barn Owl, Jay Peak lift tickets?? **September 30:** Paddle and Picnic. **October 13-14:** Wild and Scenic Film Festival, in conjunction with Jay Peak's Bean and Brew festival.

Other: ANM River Celebration at Mac's Bend in Swanton on August 26th; MRBA Community Water Walks in Enosburg- Giddings Brook on September 5; October 31st? Knotweed event – Montgomery River Walk Park...hoping to do a knotweed maze!

Other/Public Comment: Jim suggested that we engage RTCA for the Standish Property – how to manage use, as well as other aspects.

Mural at office – artist requested payment; JL said this was for credit. Committee feels like it is murky with that – maybe buy her a gift certificate to an art store (\$250-\$300)? Lindsey will share John's response to her with the Committee.

New tshirt idea: "Vermont's First (or Only?) Wild and Scenic River".

DS motioned; JL seconded: meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.