

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 21st, 2022 6:30 PM – Thirsty Burger in Richford**

**Attendees:** Lindsey Wight, Sarah Lunn, John Little, Susan Staples, Carol Hickey, Jim MacCartney, Dan Seeley, and Adele Wolfson

- 1) Enjoy good food at a local riverside spot!** We convened the meeting at 6:32 pm on the deck with a view of the river, and discussed business matters while ordering and enjoying our food.
- 2) Review of June Meeting Minutes**
  - We did not have a quorum, so will review the June and July minutes at our August meeting.
- 3) Administrative business:**
  - JL updated us on the progress of the office building. Brick work is underway; the walls should be roughed in soon.
  - LW gave an overview of the April-June financial report.
- 4) Event summary**
  - Paddle and Picnic: 13 attendees, plus 2 lunch visitors (and Sarah, John, Russ, and Lindsey). A fun day, but HOT. Low water and a tree across the most direct chute through Sampsonville rapids made for a bumpy rapids-run, but it was successful. The heat became a real concern after lunch, in the exposed flat water down to the Enosburg dam. Had a few participants take out at the upstream Brownway trail and sit in the shade. This section is too long, at least on a hot day.
  - Paddle Instruction I: 4 attendees (including Sarah). Enjoyable event, but maybe need a different marketing “pitch” to catch people’s interest. Did have good conversations about and with more river users – having the Lawyer’s Landing area open has been good notice.
  - Paddle-Pedal: Good weather, good water, great attendance (biggest yet). Positive feedback from participants, and the Richford Town Admin sees the potential to make this a big town event – hopefully will have more buy-in next year!
- 5) River Access concerns**
  - Issues with public access on private land in Westfield: no respect for the farmers and the newly planted riparian buffer. More signage (temp for now; permanent in process), and creation of a “parking area”.
  - UMATR needs to budget for access maintenance – regular mowing at Lawyers, probably others.
  - Steward program at swimming holes? Lindsey had a conversation with Montgomery Conservation Commission and their primary concern is overuse at swimming holes. Not a topic we encounter outside of this part of our rivers, but a very valid one. Committee approves Lindsey’s suggestion that she explore the possibility of hosting stewards next year (will want the towns to buy-in, as well) – cost, how to recruit, what it would entail, etc.
- 6) Film Fest**
  - Time to watch films! If you’re on the subcommittee, Sarah has sent you the links. If you want to join the subcommittee, let us know.

- Shall we order and offer pint cups again? Yes.
- The Film Fest cost has gone up; let's get sponsors! S&L will create language to share with sponsors; the full Committee will be asked to request financial support or donations of raffle items.

**7) 2022 Events (ours and others):**

- August 7th (Sunday) is our second Paddle Instruction: swiftwater or class/I/II at the Abbey Rapids in Sheldon.
- October 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the Wild & Scenic Film Fest at Clips and Reels at Jay Peak.
- July 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi's event at Mac's Bend in Swanton from 10am-3pm. Come enjoy war canoe rides, demonstrations, and a 2pm presentation from VINS ("Watershed Wildlife" – funded by MRBA)
- August 4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) MRBA clean-up paddle – a "tire hunt" from 1-4pm from Davis Park.
- Recruitment for events: put a poster up at STC; Scott Staples has colleagues that would likely be interested. Other bigger business in the area, too?

**8) Other/Public Comment**

Recommendation to watch On The Edge – a Teton Gravity Research series on HBO: One episode about kayaking, next up is one about rock-climbing.

**9) Upcoming Meetings**

- August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – location suggestions? Orleans side; Troy? Lindsey will check with the North Troy Village Clerk and/or Troy Town Clerk.

**10) Wrap Up and RCC trail tour**

- Wrapped up the dinner/business part of the meeting at 7:52pm and went up to the Richford High School to check out the new river-access trail that the Richford Conservation Commission created with our River Community Grant. Thanks for the great tour, Dan – the trail is awesome (even in the rain).