

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 17th, 2022 6:30 PM – Enosburg Emergency Services Building and via zoom

Attendees: Sarah Lunn, Jim MacCartney, Carol Hickey, Susan Staples, Wendy Scott, John Little, and Lindsey Wight were in-person; Jacques Couture, Dan Seeley, and Cynthia Scott joined via zoom

- 1) **Welcome and catching up.** Meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.
- 2) **Review of October Meeting Minutes.** CH motioned to approve; SS seconded; minutes were approved as written.
- 3) **Administrative business:**
 - Office building update from John: external doors and windows have been delivered; the space is getting painted; the heat pumps are in and the floors in the downstairs are half done! The canoe chandelier is up and looks amazing!
- 4) **River Community and Town Infrastructure Grants**
 - 2023 RCG follow-up questions – Lindsey connected with the applicants about the projects that we had questions on, and was given good additional information (Enosburgh historical signage planning group is yet to be formed; Lindsey asked that someone from our group be invited to participate. The knotweed project will certainly require clean equipment (before and after) to prevent spread. The Enosburg Rec Committee discussed paddleboards with The Great Outdoors, with their goals – inflatables were recommended). All grants administered.
 - Town Infrastructure Grants 2023 applications overview and decisions – Received 5 applications requesting \$50,000 (our budgeted amount). All applications were culvert and ditch relates (Westfield, Troy, Richford, Berkshire, and Enosburgh). There were a few questions/points of clarification desired. The grants subcommittee recommended funding all projects if expected answers can be gotten. CS moves to fund all projects; DS seconds – all 5 projects will be funded after questions are answered to satisfaction. Some of the applications were not very informative, or necessarily well-written – discussion of how we can help guide our applicants; not only for our applications, but our small towns may be competing for other funding against other towns for other grants, and we want them to succeed. We have discussed offering some sort of grant-writing lesson/guidance before – but people are already overworked and have limited time. A good start would be adding an example of a successful application – and successful reporting – to the application packet.
 - Newsletter – in progress; we haven't released once since early 2020, so there will be a lot to catch people up on. We have granted nearly \$350,000 through our grant programs, so that will be highlighted! Also events, the Troy covered bridge, intro of Sarah and the new building.
- 5) **2022 events:** MRBA's Knockout Knotweed Bonfire – November 19th 4-7pm at Riverwalk Park in Montgomery.
PWSR meeting in Florida (Wekiva River) Dec 7,8,9 – Lindsey, Sarah, and Jim attending (for at least part of it).
- 6) **2023 events:**

- Winter webinars (virtual) – Jan, Feb, Mar, April. Ideas: wildlife, sojourn presentation, paddling stories, about W&S. January will kick off with a “What are Wild and Scenic Rivers” presentation.
- Amphibian Road Crossing – webinar in March/April; Salamander Night Patrol(s?) as weather allows. Connect with schools? Also advertise “here’s how to get on the list to be notified for Salamander Night Patrols”.
- Paddle lessons – Saturday June 17th; Sunday July 9th
- Paddle-Pedal – July 15th
- Paddle & Picnic – Sept 30th
- WSFF in the fall
- ALSO: hold and Open House for the new building (in January?). Would also be good to have a partner-focused open house; invite up other NPOs to better connect with them.

7) 2023 Seasonal Help: Stewardship. Videography? Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge/Northwoods Stewardship Crew?

Stewardship interns – advertise at Johnson/Lyndon Rec and Env Studies departments. Part-time position? Or pair it with videography for a full-time position. Different skills: stewardship will require outgoing; lots of talking with people; the videography position will require film skills (and interest) – so: depends on the applicants. Videography: the kids who made the Richford video did great – seemed outgoing... may be interested? At any rate: we should do targeted advertising – a set of friends that we know, or that can be recommended; talk to guidance counselors and teachers. Would be nice to get high school students for the local aspect.

Lindsey will have this fleshed out for the December meeting: pay rate and description for the counselors/teachers; and a draft position description.

8) Upcoming Meetings

- December 15th, 2022 – Potluck in the NEW OFFICE SPACE!

9) Wrap Up and Adjourn: meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.