

**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.