

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 21, 2021 – Jay Peak Mountain Kids Adventures Center

Attendees: Lindsey Wight, Cynthia Scott, Jacques Couture, John Little, Dan Steely, Sarah Lunn; Russ Ford, Wendy Scott, Jim MacCartney joined via zoom.

Welcome Sarah: Sarah Lunn is our new ECO Americorps member representing the MRBA as well as UMATR. She grew up in Georgia, VT and attended UNH.

Review of the September minutes: DS motioned to accept the minutes; WS seconded; minutes were approved as written.

Budget check-in: Cynthia went over our quarterly report from July-Sept 2021. New fiscal year has begun. \$165,000 this year; still have some unspent funds from 2021 - but several of the River Community Grants projects are not yet completed.

Berkshire office update: Internet cost is now fully the responsibility of MRBA and UMATR (split) and no longer under John Cote's name. JL talked to Scott Boyce about the old Dick and Pam's - could be a long term future possibility for office space but requires renovation; no timeline for that. Other thoughts: Richford's old pharmacy? No public office - "rent" space at Lindsey's house? Less than ideal with an ECO Americorps member.

JC suggests increasing our payment to meet John Cote's ask of \$716 for monthly rent, but let him know that we are exploring options; DS seconded. All in favor.

Events review: Outdoor Writers Association of America hosted a conference at Jay Peak. JL, LW, and SL took one writer for a pedal and paddle using bikes from the Jay Cloud and the canoes stored at Richford's Davis Park. The group rode up the rail trail from the Berkshire office to Davis Park, and then paddled back to the office via the Missisquoi. Potential way to increase tourism by incentivising self guided tours using this method? JL suggested having business people in Richford lead the outings to increase business traffic.

River Community and Town Infrastructure Grants: Who will serve on the grants subcommittee this year? WS, RF, CH, SL, and LW. Thank you!

2022 Town Infrastructure RFP is out - please help your towns take advantage of this funding opportunity. Maybe ask towns that have received to nudge others (Kiley/Emily nudge the Enosburg(h)s?)

2021 Updates:

- Berkshire culvert final report submitted
- Others: Westfield Loop Rd; looks like job is done, waiting for reporting;
 - N Troy Hill St ditching (2021) and culvert (2020) has been delayed due to inability of sourcing culvert due to COVID. Requested extension for next year - this is acceptable; Lindsey will tell April (Village clerk).
 - MCC Town Forest scoping projects - requested an extension till March. Also acceptable; Lindsey will tell Joan.
- Richford Library (2020 grant) final report summary for public programming and books has been received.
- RCC's signage project report has been received.
- Exploring the Trout River Through the Arts - MRBA shared project will be finishing this month at the end with a final basket-making workshop. Ellen is planning on attending.

- Older: NFCT Sampsonville - will be getting engineer's cost opinion about removal; CHC keeping track - FEMC should resume work sometime this month; VRC McKay parcel improvements - Lindsey has requested and update.

Other Projects:

- Troy Bridge Survey
 - SL made a survey postcard for the town of Troy for their opinion of what the community wants to replace the covered bridge that burned down in Troy last year
 - intend to give out postcard into every troy resident mailbox through the USPS as well has an online survey that is posted
- Sampsonville Removal - instead of access point? Good idea to do at some point - larger \$ amounts are focused on fish passage (which doesn't apply to this remnant-removal project). Could we invite Noah to join a meeting to discuss with us?
- Self-guided paddle pedal tours? Similar to what was done for OWAA - JC wonders if a local outfitter (Christian of Sessions/Axiom) might take this on. It would be good to get Richford folks to pull together and figure out how to offer this.
- Knotweed grants - offered in spring 2021; only two takers, so we have \$600 remaining. LW proposed spending this excess to buy pond liner or other material that would suppress knotweed growth, to give out to landowners.
- Owner of Thirsty Burger has made plans known about updating back parking lot to bridge to restaurant and also provide a kayak entrance to the river
 - significant permitting would be required

Strategies for engagement with our towns: speaker series: LW suggested making future meetings have potential for speakers. Suggested Jeff Parsons to speak on knotweed and Michael Lew Smith about mussels. Potential of January being the first speaker?

Upcoming Meetings: Thirsty Burger in Richford 11/18/21 - 6 PM

Other: Montgomery in need of signs at Enosburg Boston Post Rd. Ask Bethany about rail trail bridge sign potential.

Wrap up and Adjourn: meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.