

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2020 – Troy and Westfield

Attendees: Jacques Couture, Ellen Fox, John Little, Keith Sampietro, Cynthia Scott, Dan Seeley, Ari Lattanzi, and Lindsey Wight.

Committee Paddle: Thanks to those that were able to join us for the pre-meeting paddle upriver from the Chase Dam in Troy; and thanks to Keith for providing the boats for us! It was lovely to spend some time enjoying the river and the beautiful evening with you!

Meeting at the Westfield Community Center called to order at 7:30.

Welcome to Ari Lattanzi: Ari will be serving as our Education and Outreach Coordinator. A graduate of Middlebury, Ari has experience as a high school science teacher and working with nonprofits. She is interested in water sampling, data and education, mapping, and helping with surveying (especially wildlife) that may be useful for the rewrite of the Tactical Basin Plan.

Review of the August minutes: JL motioned; KS seconded; minutes were approved as written.

Administrative: Lindsey updated the Committee on the budget for the existing (and ending!) fiscal year. Approximately \$3,000 in overage still needs to be expended. The Committee discussed options and chose to work with schools to use these funds to provide water quality testing and programming.

River Community Grants/Storm Impacts Grants: The Troy School submitted the final report for the work that they had done on the Middleton Property on River Rd. They developed a trail on the space, surveyed the natural resources, and come up with some lesson plans. They continue to work on this school asset and have more plans for the future.

Other Projects: The Montgomery River Clean-Up was a great, successful event again this year. We had 21 volunteers join us – some used canoes to pull tires, trash, and carpet from Richford to Berkshire, and some visited our swimming holes throughout Montgomery. In all, we removed 700 lbs of trash and 10 tires! The volunteers enjoyed UMATR water bottles and dumplings from Miso Hungry as a thank you for their efforts.

Marriner's bank stabilization project is underway. We were able to harvest willow whips from property not too far up River Rd, and the Northwoods Stewardship Crew and Eric Kennison are forging ahead with the project quickly.

The Mill Brook willows had more drought issues than expected; the willows are coming along slower than hoped. Lindsey and Ari plan to add some willow stakes, winter rye, and conservation seed mix to help green it up and hold everything in place until the willows can come in stronger.

Other/Public Comment: Jacques shared that they had a guest at the B&B who was very excited to learn of our local Wild & Scenic River!

Upcoming meetings: October 15 at the Berkshire Town Hall.

Wrap up and Adjourn: JL motioned; DS seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.