

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, July 15, 2021 – John and Ruth Little’s, Montgomery

Attendees: Dan Seeley, John Little, Keith Sampietro, Russ Ford, Jacques Couture, Ari Lattanzi, and Lindsey Wight; Jim MacCartney joined via zoom.

Thanks to John and Ruth for hosting us up on their lovely hill - and for the delicious lemon squares & beverages!

Review of the June minutes: KS motioned to accept the minutes; JL seconded; minutes were approved as written.

Ari’s last meeting: Thank you to Ari for ALL her hard work – she forged and fostered new relationships, implemented projects, provided long-needed technological updates, and worked tirelessly to help spread the word about the importance of protecting our rivers in many and varied ways! We will miss her greatly, but are also glad that her return to teaching means that she will have a hand in “bringing up” the next generation of Vermonters.

Events review:

- Wild & Scenic Solstice on June 20 – low attendance (pandemic? Timing (Father’s Day)? Marketing issues?), but good feedback from both attendees and volunteers – and great (and lasting!) resources.
- Paddle lessons on July 10 – 5 signed up; only 2 made it day-of. Was appreciated by those who attended. If can figure out better marketing, may be useful to offer again? Didn’t hire (or need) and assistant.
- River Clean-Up on July 11 – 13 participants; 30 tires! – and only covered 1 mile of river!
- Summer Days on the River youth paddle day trips. July 14th was the first; Troy – new folks signed up this year!

Upcoming:

- Veteran’s canoe trip this weekend.
- More Summer Days on the River youth paddle day trips: July 20, July 22, August 18.
- Knockout Knotweed – with MRBA on July 23. Could we get the MCA sandwich board to advertise that this is happening (used this for our first collaborative knotweed event back in May).
- Paddle and Picnic July 31: Richford to East Berkshire. Jay Peak shuttle.
- River Explorers camp trip August 2-6.
- Paddle Pedal August 7 – need volunteers! Mostly 10:30-12:30; free lunch and prize for all volunteers. Also: please help amplify the event – and hang posters! Suggested places to put lawn signs: Riverwalk, MCA, Davis Park, Office, Westfield and Troy greens.
- Montgomery Clean-Up September 12.

River Community and Town Infrastructure Grants:

- Town of Richford: Canoe Lessons – these were well-received. Final report is in, final payment has been made.
- Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi: Boat trailer and community event – trailer is great, but too low to put boat in water during the event. Good turnout; rainy day, but neat information provided. They will utilize the trailer again on August 28th down at the Refuge, when boat rides will be available (preregister for a spot for a ride!). Keith has offered his boats for paddling at the event, or for a clean-up prior. Paid full amount up-front; will need final report.
- Town of Richford: Green Avenue erosion project – needed to slow water; sinkholes had been created! This repairs will serve the town well. Final report submitted; final payment made.

Other/Public Comment: MRBA has changed Lindsey’s title to Executive Director – should we also make this change? Not a quorum present; so we will vote at the next meeting. Also, MRBA is considering bringing on an administrative assistant – Lindsey will bring more details after the MRBA has determined them.

Scott Perry (Montgomery Historical Society) reached out to John and mentioned that he had connected with the Lowell Historical Society about the River Community Grant-funded project they are working on – so nice to be a part of making waves/ripples/good connections between towns!

Upcoming Meetings: August 19 at Boutin’s (if it’s not raining)? September 16 at Berkshire Town Hall.

Wrap up and Adjourn: JL motioned; RF seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.