

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 11th, 2023 6:30 PM – IN-PERSON at the Office in East Berkshire**

**Attendees:** Sarah Lunn, Jim MacCartney, Jacques Couture, Susan Staples, Wendy Scott, John Little, Dan Seeley, and Lindsey Wight; Russ Ford and Scott Staples were able to join us for the meal

**Potluck:** we enjoyed a meal of many quiches for our first in-person meeting of 2023!

**Business meeting was called to order at 7:13pm.**

**Review of the April meeting minutes (Thanks Wendy!):** We corrected some spelling errors (Lindsey's, not Wendy's!), and approved them. **No updates on business from the April meeting.**

**Event Overview:** The timing/weather did not work out to hold another Salamander Night Patrol. These events are relatively simple (weather notwithstanding) to hold: the consensus was that it should be a priority. It would be good to get schools involved more (hopefully the science teacher from Richford will be able to entice students next year). Get Kate D from the MRBA more involved (herpetologist). Other good locations: Wightman Hill or Privy Hill (Paradise Pond), or Woodard Neighborhood.

**Administrative:** Jan-Mar financial reporting. Bookkeeping systems being set up.

**Grants/Projects:** Proposed change to our grant programs: "Town Infrastructure Grants" to be called "Municipal Grants". WS made a motion, DS seconded, motion passed.

Videography Interns – We have two interested high school students. Discussion about what kinds of videos we want made by these interns. John has plans to take one of the interns on the river from Richford to East Berkshire on June 3rd. 120 – 160 hours \$1800 - \$2400 in payment. There will be regular check-ins to ensure they are accomplishing the goals of the internship. Sarah and Lindsey will meet with them before they start and set up a timeline and structure for the projects to follow (or at least the first one, so we know that our expectations are clear). Wendy motioned to hire the two high school interns. Susan seconded. Motion passed.

Desires for footage: videos of the paddle-able sections (include show the access points and how to put-in/take-out; document events: paddle-pedal July 15<sup>th</sup>, paddle lessons July 9, nature paddle with Jared June 24; interview business owners along the rivers; interview farmers who have done projects; a rec-themed video (swimming, fly-fishing, etc.); pretty footage – covered bridges; families (swimming holes; interviews at swimming holes?); wildlife? What are they interested in?

Proposed priorities: 1) Access points/paddling; 2) Events; 3) Interviews

Also may be able to shadow film-maker Vince Franke while he does some of the work for Exploring Our Cultural Waters videos (2022 RCG).

**2023 Upcoming Events: Saturday, May 13:** FCNRCD Fishing Festival; also, Montgomery tree planting for the Fruit and Nut Orchard. **May 19** Bioblitz at Richford Elementary school **May 20:** Slow Birding in Richford. **June 17:** Flatwater Paddle Instruction. **June 24:** Nature Paddle with Jared Nunery. **July 9:** Swiftwater Paddle Instruction. **July 15:** Missisquoi River Paddle-Pedal. **September 9:** Swimming Hole Clean-Up. **September 30:** Paddle and Picnic. **October 13-14: Wild and Scenic Film Festival** Jay Peak event's people are interested in a "preview film" on Friday Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>; Sarah will see if we can show the VT-made "No Other Lake": a 40-minute film with Q&A from the film maker.

**Other/Public Comment:** Thursday May 18, Conservation meeting Saturday 12:30 – 4:30 Prouty Beach in Newport on Lake Memphremagog. Lindsey will be away; it would be great if someone could attend. Maple donuts and ice cream will be served!

Sarah shared some examples of signage for the outside of the building and the recruitment postcard; members gave feedback on what may make the most visible and easy to read: pare down words on the signage - less is more for text. Perhaps don't need phone number, and maybe not even the email: just name and website.

Postcards: again pare it down; too much language. Try to get after: what does it mean for you to join? Why do I want to join? Perhaps "Do you care about clean water?" bullet list, then: "Do you care enough to help?"

**Upcoming meetings:** June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Westfield Community Center (JC has booked the space).

SS motioned to adjourn; JL seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.