

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 20, 2021 – Montgomery Rec Center/Pavilion

Attendees: Jacques Couture, John Little, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Dan Seeley, Russ Ford, Keith Sampietro, Ari Lattanzi, and Lindsey Wight

Welcome; hello and nice to SEE you: Meeting called to order at 6:38pm.

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

Financials/grants update: Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi's boat trailer cost less than anticipated; they are wondering if they can use some of the overage to fund tshirts that will be sold as a fundraiser for the tribe - approved. Some discussion of if we should request sponsorship in the form of our logo on the shirts, but decided that was not necessary.

Knotweed grants: we've received 3 requests; 2 are folks who are already doing some knotweed control work and these have been funded (using metal mesh, using thick plastic, using carpet). One is a large area in Montgomery, so we will do a site visit and see how we may work with the landowners.

Solstice prep and planning: Ari showed off the printed documents (map and checklist) that will complement the online forms and interactive map. Suggestions included altering the river colors to better differentiate the rivers, but overall it's a wonderful resource! These will be available at the "activity stations" at Big Falls, Davis Park, and Riverwalk Park. The guided activities at each location will be Bugworks, Intro to Canoeing, and Let's Go Fishing. These stations will also have DIY activities – suggestions? Painting river rocks, coloring pages, flute-making from knotweed? Lawn games. Please sign up to man the info table during a morning or afternoon (or both!) sessions.

Prizes (for participation, as well as photo contest): \$25 gift cards to local businesses – suggestions: Great Outdoors, Flying Disc, Jay Cloud, First Tracks, Greenwoods, The Crossing?, Pine Cone, Phoenix House, Black Lantern, The INN, 321 Taco, Boutin's, Braults, Couture's, Ramen?, Troy General Store, Westfield General Store, Sessions, Jay Country Store. Future "big ticket items" – maybe kayaks at the Great Outdoors? They've been wonderfully supportive in the past, and of other efforts.

Marketing: Please help spread the word and hand flyers around your towns. Schools – end-of-year notices. Rec depts.

Other projects/events:

- River Explorers trip August 2-6: 12-14 participants. Require COVID tests for proof of vax (12 and up). Concern: are tests less readily available? Get test kits? Want the kids to be able to interact normally.
- Day Paddles – 4 dates in July/Aug on different stretches of the river.
- Paddle-Pedal is August 7.
- Paddle and Picnic? Yes – Will Jay have their shuttles running; will they allow us to use? Require masks while on the shuttle. July 31; cap it at 20 participants. Bring bagged lunches rather than the usual make-your-own.
- Should we offer another round of paddling lessons? The Richford ones sold out very quickly, and did not bring in locals. JL approves, KS seconds; all in favor. Connect with Charen and Levi Irish to really pitch this to locals. MRBA internship applicant may be a good assistant? Also market to the schools?

Other/Public Comment: Invite REI folks up for a guided day paddle, to continue to build that relationship?

Upcoming Meetings: June 17 in person? Jacques offers to host at his place, and then we can do a Mill Brook visit.

Signs of the Season: pileated woodpeckers, columbine, jack-in-the-pulpit. No vernal pools – moderate drought already. Do a rain dance!

Wrap up and Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.