



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee Minutes

October 26, 2016

7 pm to 9 pm

WPWA Campus, 203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832

Call to Order at 7:00 pm. There was a quorum of seven towns represented

In Attendance: Jay Aron, Ayla Fox, Christopher Grube, Sean Henry, Roy Heaton, Madeline Jeffery, Maureen Kennelly, Meg Kerr, James Leigh, Joe MacAndrew, Dennis Migneault, Denise Poyer, Richard Seager, Louis Sposato, Denise Stetson,

Presentation: Habitat quality in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed by Christopher Raithel, Senior Wildlife Biologist with RI Department of Environmental Management

Approval of Minutes from Oct 6, 2016 meeting

Unanimously approved.

Financial Report

- As of Oct 19, 2016 we have expended \$25,568.36, with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$3,753.82 made on Oct. 19, 2016. This is less than half of the \$56,000 allotted in the current budget. The remaining \$30,431.64 should carry us through to April 2017 when new funding should become available.
- On 18 Oct 16, Sposato approved a total of 93 hours for Denise for the periods ending 25 Aug, 8 Sep, 22 Sep and 6 Oct for a total of \$3,255.00
- To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 488 hours, totaling \$17,325.00

Subcommittee Reports

- Outreach Subcommittee
 - Rack card
 - No meeting. After some small changes to the rack card it will be ready to print.
 - Needs website on front
 - Italicized "your" is preferred.
 - Website
 - Eight Mile river was favored. It was
 - Visually pleasing
 - Easy to use
 - Seem to capture what the group is trying to do
 - Lampre River also favored.

- Contained videos
- York River too plain
- Liked news section
- White background looks clean
- Banner on top with tabs
- Section for maps

Old Business

- Recruiting more members to the committee - Denise has been in contact with the Exeter Town Council and the Charlestown Town Council. Will follow up with them after the elections.
- New England Rivers Study Committees will meet on Friday, Dec. 9, 2016 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Nashua River Watershed River Watershed Association 592 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450. An agenda will be forwarded before the meeting. Any committee members who would like to attend should contact Denise to make car pooling arrangements. Drivers can ask for mileage reimbursement.
 - Jim Leigh, Dennis Migneault, and Dick Seager are interested in attending.

New Business

- Representation from the towns of East Greenwich and Coventry – there has been no participation from the towns and only small area of watershed falls within these townships.
 - Motion by Dick Seager to remove the towns of East Greenwich and Coventry from the Study Committee; Seconded by Jim Leigh. Twelve in favor; One opposed. Motion passes
- Motion made by Denise Stetson to decrease the number of town representatives needed to make a quorum from seven members to six members; 2nd by Sean Henry. Motion passed unanimously
- Role of subcommittees – for discussion Denise relayed the suggestions of the three tasks the subcommittees need to begin:
 - Research their local community information about ORV related information
 - Develop proposed classification for each segment in their sub-basin
 - Get a start on known issues or opportunities to deal include in the management plan
- Subcommittee membership – the committee will break up into the previously agreed four subcommittees, as follows:
 - (1) Chipuxet, Queen and Beaver Rivers with the towns of North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and Richmond
 - (2) Pawcatuck River with the towns of South Kingstown, Charlestown, Westerly, and Stonington
 - (3) Wood River with the towns of Exeter, West Greenwich, Richmond, and Hopkinton
 - (4) Shunock and Green Falls River with the towns of Sterling, Voluntown, North Stonington and Hopkinton
 - Denise will set up initial meeting for each subcommittee
 - Subcommittees should elect a chairperson at the first meeting
 - Subcommittees can invite other local residents to help serve on them
 - Maps of each sub-basin and river segments will be provided to each subcommittee

- List of resources will be started and provided to each subcommittee
- Sharing communication to towns with committee members
 - Denise will make sure she shares any information sent out to towns with the appropriate town representative
 - Members are encouraged to share information about Study Committee with their towns.
 - They can send reports to the town council/board of selectmen
 - They can get on the agenda and give a report
 - They can speak at the public comment section of the town meetings
 - They can send letters to the editor
- Nomination and Election of new Committee chair
 - Sean Henry was nominated by Joe MacAndrew. No other nominations. Sean was elected Committee Chair by a unanimous vote.

Informational Items

- Denise is attending “Managing Visitors Use in Protected Areas” workshop which is being taught by expert instructors from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. Resources from this workshop may be helpful when the committee begins writing the management plan.

Schedule Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be the week of Nov 28.
- Presentation from Loren Spears, Director of the Tomaquag Museum.
- Due to the Holidays there will be no December meeting. However, subcommittees may meet as desired.

Adjourned at pm.

New Business Items for next meeting:

- Including information regarding locations of sensitive cultural sites and rare or endangered species.
- Providing information to town councils/board of selectmen
- Status of subcommittees

Action Items

Denise will:

- Contact the towns of Coventry and East Greenwich to inform them that they have been removed from the Study Committee due to lack of representation.
- Have maps printed for the subcommittees
- Start a list of resources for the subcommittees