



**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee
Minutes**

September 28, 2017

7 pm to 9 pm

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

In attendance: Christopher Grube, Roy Heaton, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dave Prescott, Virginia Wootten, Peter Paton, Harrison Gatch, Nils Wiberg, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Maureen Kennelly, Dennis Migneault, Jon Ericson, Cathy Sparks, Sarah Bursky, Denise Poyer

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Presentation

1. No presentation.

Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2017 meeting

Approved unanimously.

Financial Report

1. Denise's report
 - a. As of September 19, 2017 we have expended \$60,879.93 with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$1,765.78 made on September 19, 2017.
 - b. On September 17, 2017, Sean Henry approved a total of 41 hours for Denise for the period from July 15 to September 7, 2017 for a total of \$1,435.00
 - c. To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 1210 hours, totaling \$42,840.00

Old Business

1. NPS Report
 - a. The rough draft of the NPS Eligibility Report has been sent for internal review. The feedback should indicate if we have made the case for Wild and Scenic designation.
2. Outreach activities to towns
 - a. Westerly – Jon contacted the Town Manager. They will schedule a time to have a meeting with zoning, planning, recreation, conservation, and two land trusts. The Town Manager will send out the invite.

- b. West Greenwich – Celebrate WG is this weekend. Chris will pass out brochures. He will meet with Town Manager to coordinate meetings with other town organizations after that.
 - c. Richmond – Denise will speak with the Land Trust
 - d. Dave will send a letter of support from SaveTheBay.
 - e. Hopkinton – Sean has spoken with the land trust, conservation commission and recreation commission. He will put together a formal letter asking for support.
 - f. North Stonington – Madeline and Dick have a list of committees to meet and will use the letter Denise sent out. They decided to wait until after elections in Nov because all the selectman will be changed.
 - g. Charlestown – Nils and Virginia meet with Town Administrator. They scheduled a meeting with Town Council and town commissions on Oct. 10. Denise will give the presentation.
 - h. Stonington – Jim and Fred spoke with First Selectmen and gave brochures. Denise is scheduled to present to the Board of Selectmen Oct. 11. Fred will check with First Selectmen to see if he would like to have other commission invited to this meeting.
 - i. South Kingstown – Ken and Dennis have started a list of committees to meet.
3. CT Stewardship meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2017 at the Eightmile River office in Haddam, CT at 11 am. Eric Thomas from CT DEEP will be joining us, along with Pat Young from Eightmile River.
- a. Madeline has suggested an invitation be sent to state reps, inland wetlands commission, and town planners. She and others will send a list to Denise on Monday.
 - b. Denise asked everyone who plans to go to let her know next week so she can get a final count.
4. Stewardship Plan
- a. The draft outline was discussed and reorganized. See attached.

New Business

- 1. Restructuring the subcommittees
 - a. It was decided to keep the same subcommittees that are already in place, organized by rivers. They will be responsible for Section II, *Protecting and Enhancing Outstanding Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Values*.
 - b. Subcommittees are asked to meet before the next full committee meeting and develop a more detailed outline for their river sections. They should answer three questions:
 - i. What are the existing mechanisms for protections at the local level for your towns/river segments/ORVs?
 - ii. What are threats facing the local ORVs/resources? Where are the gaps in protections?
 - iii. What are the strategies or actions you'd recommend?
 - c. Another subcommittee may be formed later to develop Section V *Working Together into the Future: Role of the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council*.
- 2. Denise gave a brief report on the meeting Oct. with Ayla Fox and Huge Markey to outline a strategy for media coverage. Notes are attached.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Outreach committee has scheduled a meeting for Thursday October 5 at Dick Seager's house.

Schedule Next Meeting

1. It was decided to schedule the next meeting for early November. Denise will send out the Needtomeet next week.
2. It was decided not to have a presentation.

Adjourn at 9:00 pm

Action Items

Denise:

- Schedule next meeting in November
- Send out new Stewardship Plan outline
- Send out invitations to people suggested for the CT Stewardship Summit
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Study Committee Members:

- Have subcommittees meet in Oct to begin working on section II.