



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee Minutes

October 6, 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, Ken Burke, Jamie Fosburgh, Christopher Grube, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Maureen Kennelly, James Leigh, Bruce Loeckler, Joe MacAndrew, Dennis Migneault, Denise Poyer, Dave Prescott, Richard Seager, Louis Sposato

Presentation: None

Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2016 meeting
Unanimously approved.

Financial Report

1. There were no requests for reimbursement since August 11. A request is expected to be submitted for reimbursement in two weeks. As of yesterday there will be charges of at least \$2,700 for Denise's hours and mileage.
2. Requisition of funds for FY17 – The process to get funds approved by NPS is not necessarily based on the federal fiscal year (Oct 1 to Sept 30) but rather when congressional appropriation for running the federal government is actually approved. Therefore, it can be assumed that the budget for this committee should be made based on June 1 to May 31. There is \$34,185 of approved funds still available. Denise felt that should cover committee expenses until we submit a new budget to NPS in April 2017. The NPS representative stated that the Committee can anticipate receiving the same amount of funds in FY 17 as it received in FY 16.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Outreach Subcommittee
 - a. Rack card
 - i. The subcommittee reworked the rack card based on comments and recommendations from the full committee and presented the results. Two photos, one of Wood River in summer and one in winter, were presented.
 - ii. Suggestions for the new card
 1. Try to have "Wood-Pawcatuck" after "Your"
 2. Italicize "Your"

3. The winter scene was favorably received.
- iii. The subcommittee will work with the suggestions but make the final decision about the rack cards.
- b. Website
 - i. The subcommittee met with the web site designer on Sept. 26. It was agreed to increase the contract for the web design from \$1,350 to \$1,700 due to added requests. In addition, yearly costs to host the website will be \$136 per year (\$100 to host and \$36 for domain names). If we find we need to increase server space there is an option to add an additional two MB for an additional \$100 per year. Dick Seager has approved the new contract. Denise will have it signed and sent to the web site designer by Friday.
 - i. Denise sent out an email to full committee members for those who want to give some input into the website design, including a few websites to review. She will follow up next week with the committee to develop a list of their suggestions. The subcommittee will work with the web site designer to come up with initial designs. Once a design has been developed a late draft will be sent to everyone for further feedback. The subcommittee will work on the text for the website and again submit it for feedback.
 - ii. The subcommittee is looking for good photos of all seven rivers. The website will have photo albums for each of the rivers and for several categories, including animals, plants, recreation, and historic.

Old Business

1. Definition of Wild, Scenic, and Recreational categories – The NPS representative presented notes on how rivers are classified (attached) under the Wild and Scenic Act. It is important to note that the classifications are based on how much human impact there is on the rivers. A river can have more than one designation. The NPS representative stated the Committee will assign the classification of our rivers, subject to NPS final approval.
2. Election of new vice chair – Sean Henry was nominated by Dennis Migneault and seconded by James Leigh. Sean was unanimously elected.
3. Final version of potential list of ORV's was reviewed by the committee with no further comment.
4. Recruiting more members to the committee
 - a. Denise is currently working with the Exeter Town Council to get Roy Heaton approved as their representative to the committee.
 - b. Denise will contact towns who have only one or no representative to let them know she will be sending out a press release looking for representatives for the committee.

New Business

1. Creating Subcommittees - Discussion focused around how to break out subcommittees to study ORV's of the rivers. Denise had submitted a suggestion of basing the

subcommittees on the geographic location of the rivers and the towns that bordered them, as opposed to breaking out by ORV. There was a brief discussion of the benefits of subcommittees organized by rivers versus by ORV. A motion was made by Madeline Jefferies and seconded by Ken Burke to organize the committees as follows:

- (1) Chipuxet, Queen, and Beaver Rivers with the towns of North Kingstown, and South Kingstown, East Greenwich, Richmond
- (2) Pawcatuck River with the towns of South Kingstown, Charlestown, Westerly, and Stonington
- (3) Wood River with the towns of Voluntown, West Greenwich, Exeter, Richmond, and Hopkinton
- (4) Shunock and Green Falls Rivers with the towns of North Stonington and Hopkinton

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Scheduling future speakers –
 - a. Denise described the experts she had lined up for the next two months and asked the committee what topic they would like to have for Dec. The committee approved the following topics and speakers:
 - i. Oct. – Habitat with Chris Rathiel from RIDEM
 - ii. Nov. – Native Americans with Lauren Spears from the Tomaquag Museum
 - iii. Dec. – Agriculture with Ken Ayers from RIDEM
 - b. The committee also had other suggestions for speakers. Denise asked that committee members send her names, expertise, and contact information so that she can start building a resource database. It is anticipated that as the subcommittees start reviewing information on ORV's they would be able to contact the experts in those fields for more information and resources.
 - c. One of the speakers suggested were experts who did walks to look at Native Americans use of stones and stone structures. It may be possible to have field trips for the committee to go on walks with these types of experts to learn more about the topics.

Schedule Next Meeting

1. Next meeting will be at the week of 24 - 28 Oct.
2. Presentation from RIDEM .
3. Denise and Dick plan to video a discussion by North Stonington Historians on the role the mills of the Shunock and Green Falls Rivers played on society.

Informational Item –There will be a workshop for the three New England study committees this fall in Groton, MA. The two dates under consideration are Nov. 15 and Dec. 9, from 10 am to 2 pm. The workshop will be an opportunity for the three committees to discuss the process and share experiences. It is open to all members of the study committee and will include NPS staff. Denise will send out an email with the potential dates and let everyone know when the date has been decided. She will arrange carpooling for anyone interested in attending.

Adjourned at 8:17 pm.

New Business Items for next meeting:

1. Election of new Committee chair
2. Representation from the towns of East Greenwich and Coventry
3. Changing number of towns needed for a quorum
4. Role of subcommittees
5. Subcommittee membership

Action Items

1. Denise will contact town council about appointments to the committee
2. Denise will follow up with committee about website design
3. Denise will send out information about the Three Study Rivers workshop

Wood-Pawcatuck WSR Study
Classification Notes, Sept 2016

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that all eligible or designated river segments be classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. These classifications are based solely on the amount of human impact present at the time of classification. The Act defines them as follows.

- Overall we don't want to chop it up too much.choose one best classification for each major river segment

Wild river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

- This is pretty self-explanatory. Not likely to have "wild" areas within Wood-Pawcatuck.

Scenic river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

- No Parallel Roads in close proximity
- Breached dams ok
- Agricultural land use ok
- Mostly (95% +) natural shorelines that have not been rip-rapped, channelized etc.
- Not a lot of visible development as seen from the river/riverbank. Occasional houses and other OK.
- No urban town centers

Recreational river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

- Parallel roads in close proximity
- Evidence of past straightening, rip-rap, etc. Some areas that may be in need of restoration.
- Small unbreached dams OK, especially if historic in nature
- Can include urban town centers

What we need to document:

- Overall rationale for each segment (can be a few sentences for each segment)
- Show areas of streambank alteration or areas in need of riparian restoration on a map and estimate percentage of total by segment
- Bridge crossings
- Dams and their status