



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

December 1, 2016

7 pm to 9 pm

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

In attendance: Roy Heaton, Sean Henry, Maureen Kennelly, Madeline Jeffery, Denise Stetson, Dennis Migneault, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Chris Grube, Jay Aron, Rachel Calabro, Joe MacAndrew, Jamie Fosburgh, Denise Poyer

Call to Order at 7:02 pm

Presentation

1. Loren Spears, Director Tomaquag Museum; <http://www.tomaquagmuseum.org/home>

Approval of Minutes of Oct 26, 2016 meeting

1. Approved unanimously with addition of the four subcommittee names.

Financial Report

1. Denise's report: As of Dec. 1, 2016 we have expended \$28,438.36, with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$3,120.00 made on Nov. 30, 2016. This is slightly more than half of the \$56,000 allotted in the current budget.
2. On Nov. 28, 2016, Sean Henry approved a total of 82 hours for Denise for the periods ending Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and Nov. 17 for a total of \$2,870.00
3. To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 570 hours, totaling \$20,195.00

Subcommittee Reports

1. Outreach Subcommittee
 - a. Rack Card had been approved and will be ordered shortly
 - b. Website – Denise is working with the web designer to get the home page created. We anticipate the website will be up by the end of January.
2. Beaver/Chipuxet/Queen Rivers
 - a. Ken Burke is Chairperson
 - b. Looked at dividing up the reaches based on classifications.
 - i. Chipuxet River will be
 1. Scenic from Hundred Acre Pond down to Rt. 138
 2. Wild from Rt. 138 to Worden's Pond
 - ii. Queen river is still being reviewed
 - iii. Beaver River is Scenic for the entire length
3. Wood River

- a. Chris Grube is the Chairperson
- b. Divided up the reaches
 - i. from headwaters to Frying Pan Pond is Wild
 - ii. From Frying Pan Pond to Alton Pond as Scenic
- 4. Pawcatuck River
 - a. Fred Wagner is the chairperson
 - b. Still looking at how to divide up the segments
- 5. Shunock/Green Falls River
 - a. Madeline Jeffery is the Chairperson
 - b. Discussed classifications
 - c. Discussed including tributaries
 - d. Discussed bringing other people to help on the subcommittee and how they could be used
 - e. Potential meeting places for the subcommittee were discussed
 - f. Began discussion on the reaches and classifications

Old Business

- 1. Appointment of Exeter Representative – Roy Heaton was appointed by the Exeter Town Council to sit on the Wild and Scenic Study Committee
- 2. New England Rivers Study Committees meeting Dec. 9, 2016 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Nashua River Watershed River Watershed Association 592 Main Street, Groton, MA. Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Dick Seager, Jim Leigh, Dennis Mignault, Fred Wagner and Denise Poyer will attend.

New Business

- 1. Wood-Pawcatuck Flood Resiliency Management Plan's impact on Wild and Scenic Study
 - a. Denise explained the project and the recent controversy with the Wyoming Dam.
 - b. Suggestion made that we should get out positive publicity about the W&S as soon as possible.
 - i. Get website up in Jan
 - ii. Committee members could go before town committees to update them on the Committee's progress.
 - iii. Get local newspapers involved
- 2. Review of Study Committee's requirements to fulfill NPS directive from Congress
 - a. There are no regulations concerning how to break up segments, although NPS feels that the report is better received by congress if the rivers are not too chopped up
 - i. It's best to choose the best classification that fits in the longest stretch.
 - ii. However, exceptions can be made if there is good reason.
 - b. Suggest the subcommittees start a draft and see how everything looks on paper
 - c. NPS will start drafting their report regarding river reaches and classifications now with the information that will be coming from subcommittees
 - d. Two documents will come out of this – a report to congress and management plan
 - e. Tributaries should not be included in the designation because that can weigh down the regulatory process
 - i. Instead, details of important tributaries could be covered in the management plan
 - f. Dams need not affect classification as long as they are small and/or historic
 - i. If necessary dams could be excluded from designation – for example for hydroelectric projects
- 3. Using sensitive information in final report

- a. NPS will have us follow guidance from SHIPO and State Natural Heritage Programs as to how display this information in reports
4. Subcommittee guidance
 - a. Can use other local resources on the subcommittees – make sure they are credited
 - b. Subcommittees and Subcommittee Chairpersons Job Descriptions were presented to the committee.
 - i. Motion made by Maureen Kennelly and seconded by Fred Wagner to accept the guidance in the document. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Nomination and Election of Committee vice chair
 - a. Motion made by Jim Leigh and seconded by Chris Grube to table to next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Committee resignations
 - a. Louis Sposato from Westerly, Carol Ann Baker from Richmond, and Bruce Loekler from Charlestown have resigned from the committee
 - b. Please send any recommendations for replacements for these positions to Denise
 - c. Denise will reach out to the Towns after the New Year.
7. Bradford dam project
 - a. Denise discussed the project under permitting at the Bradford Dam on the Pawcatuck River. The Nature Conservancy is proposing to remove the dam and install a rock ramp for fish passage using Super Storm Sandy Resilient Communities Grant funds.
 - b. This is the type of project that NPS and the Study Committee will need to review. Jamie will contact the Army Corp of Engineers to have them send us the information.
 - c. Review of the project will be put on the January agenda.

Schedule Next Meeting (January 2017)

1. The committee agreed not to have a speaker for this meeting and focus on needed tasks
2. Denise will send out a Doodle poll for end of January

Adjourn at 8:58 pm

Denise Will:

1. Develop draft for town council presentations
2. Develop list of resources
3. Print a set of maps for everyone

Add to Agenda for Jan 2017

1. Review of Bradford dam project
2. Budget for 2017