

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council
Minutes
October 28, 2020, 6 pm to 8 pm**

In Attendance: Charlestown: Neil Wardley; Exeter: Nan Quinlan; Hopkinton: Elaine Caldarone; North Kingstown: Ahren Cohen, Jim LeBlanc; North Stonington: Dick Seager, Madeline Jeffery; Richmond: Antonia Bryson, Pete August; South Kingstown: Dennis Migneault, Bill McCusker; West Greenwich: Chris Grube, Pat Lardner; Westerly: Jon Ericson, Lauren Barber; CT DEEP, Eric Thomas; Save the Bay: Dave Prescott;

Guests: Judy Simpanen (Hopkinton), Nils Wiberg (Fuss & O'Neill), John O'Brien (TNC), and Lisa Pellegrini (Westerly)

Call to Order (Zoom Teleconference): 6:02 PM

Presentation: Potter Hill Dam presentation by Nils Wiberg (F&O) (30 min)

- 1) Presentation by Nils on Potter Hill Dam removal.
 - a) Good discussion of cost, timing, and spatial extent.
 - b) Potential options for dam design by April '21
 - c) Nils will be available to come back to the Council for another update

Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2020 meeting

- 1) Quorum met: 11 members, 8 towns; 19 total, 4 guests
- 2) Motion to accept minutes by Nan, second by Ahren, motion approved

Financial Report: Approval of the Monthly Financial Report

Establishing a Fiscal Year Budget Cycle

- 1) Motion to approve financial report by Dennis, second by Dave, motion approved
- 2) Motion to adopt a State FY (July 1 – 30 June) by Dennis, 2nd by Ahren, motion approved

Committee Reports & Program Updates (70 Min)

Guest Judy Simpanen is possible rep for Hopkinton

- URI Zoology Grad
 - Worked in water quality industry
 - Has to be mindful of time required. Would like to attend a few meetings before committing
1. Bylaws - Outcome of Revote of Ballot Questions 17, 22, 24; Draft Bylaws for Council adoption Nov Council meeting; MoU update
 - a. All 3 ballot questions were approved. Will vote in November for adopting the revised Bylaws. Everyone was satisfied with the use of electronic balloting.
 - b. Will be working on the MOU between W&S and WPWA during the committee's November meeting
 2. Executive – E-News suggestion for Council consideration
 - a. Need some help in moving this forward. Let Jon or Dennis know if you are interested
 - b. Need to be thoughtful of format, frequency, and vehicle
 - c. Need to think out publishing what we do versus recirculating other posts or news
 - d. Council approved the use of 'Dragonfly Express' as name for e-News.
 - e. Jon will continue a once a month brief letter for now (for internal use) until more support becomes available.
 3. Advisory - Update of Richmond Advisory Letter; DEM Impaired Waters Listing

- a. Antonia reported the Advisory CT has done a lot of work commenting
 - i. - Beaver River Road letter, zoning board meeting postponed to Nov 23
 - ii. - Prepared DEM impaired waters letter, due Friday
 - iii. - Commented on Richmond Comp Plan
 - iv. - Exploring how to spend financial allotment for the year
 - v. - Nan makes a motion to allow Fred to file a vote electronically since he is unable to attend tonight for medical reasons, Dave seconds, motion approved (11 yes, 0 no)
 - vi. - Motion to approve DEM letter by Ahren second by Dave motion approved
 - vii. - Eric mentioned CT has prepared impaired rivers list. Eric happy to describe
 - viii. - Dave mentions value in having two states be in synch on comments
- 4. Projects- Update on Process for Reviewing Project Ideas; WPWA Workshop, W&S Promotion Walk, Council Walk
 - a. Nan reports:
 - i. 1. Project review on schedule with process. Nan has sent instructions and reminders to the Council. Discovering folks hesitating to commit because of COVID. Candidate projects offered so far:
 - 1. Paddles and walks in watershed
 - 2. ADA compliant kayak and canoe launches
 - 3. Walking trails
 - 4. DEM collaboration to improve fish habitat
 - 5. Identify new launch sites
 - ii. 2. Getting identity known
 - 1. Elaine participated in a Westerly Land Trust (WLT) hike and gave an overview about Wild and Scenic, Elaine prepared great handout on Green Falls. She got very positive feedback. WLT would love to be on our contact list. Word of mouth communications is very effective
 - 2. Should we have Wild & Scenic Ambassadors?
 - iii. 3. WPWA workshop that Madeline and Nan attended
 - 1. Mentioned ideas to WPWA. Was positive interest
 - iv. 4. Alan asked if WPWA Board and Council members could get together.
 - 1. Maybe a fall hike, or spring, or holidays. Survey showed Council was in support. Will investigate further.
 - 2. Dennis walked Grills with WLT. Beautiful site
 - 3. Will look into winter hike
- 5. Information & Education - Update
 - a. Dennis showed hats. They look great. Three color options.
 - i. Pete will develop an online form to order hats
 - ii. Shoot for 2-3 per person
 - iii. Council gets first crack
 - iv. Give some hats to study committee folks
 - b. W&S access signs. Got them out. Signs look great. Two are set aside to Eric for CT sites. Will explore sites for additional signs
 - c. Appreciate input on communication activities
 - d. Social media. Looking for champions to take the lead in managing
- 6. Water Quality Monitoring- Update
 - a. Bill McCusker – met with WPWA Board members. Trying to get figures for annual budget. Bill is working out details of WQ sampling.
 - b. Alan asked if we could underwrite more sites. Bill has some locations that he feels are priority
 - c. Bill would like to grow the program.

New Business (20 Min)

1. Town Updates
 - a. Dennis - Charlestown has put Comp Plan out for review
 - b. Antonia – Zoning Board approved a special permit on Beaver River Road south of 138 for a boutique winery
 - c. Bill and Dick to meet with Hewitt Farm CT on putting a put-in sign. Many levels of approvals will be required
 - d. Nan asked about implications if you take out more than two elected officials relative to open meeting laws. Best to let guests worry about that. Open meeting laws do not apply to hired town staff.
 - e. Elaine reported on the 2-acre solar array in Hopkinton. The developer was asked to change the location so it was not a visible eyesore. W&S was important in generating this change. Good story for newsletter
 - f. Jon – Westerly will develop a river overlay district. We will ask Lauren Bonatakis our new NPS member for support. She will be starting the end of November.
2. DEM Draft Impaired Waters List; Oct 06th Workshop
 - a. Covered earlier in meeting

Good of the Order

1. RI Land Trust Council- Land Conservation Conference March 19-20, 2021 Registration
 - a. Combined with RILTC and MA
 - b. W&S should consider being a sponsor
 - c. Plenty of interest in attending, W&S budget can cover registration costs
2. Stillman bridge dam
 - a. Dennis describes rebar issue at Stillman dam
 - b. Good Samaritan removed rebar
 - c. A dangerous hazard, thankfully it has been removed

Action Items

1. Monthly or when applicable, email Jon potential agenda topics by 15th of the month, or revise draft agenda in google.docs, including relevant town/community updates.

Next Meeting: Revised meeting date 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Date is November 18, 2020.

Adjourn:

7:57 Motion by Pete, second by Ahren, motion approved



Patricia S Lardner



Peter August



Nan



judysimpanen



Bill McCusker



John O'Brien



Eric Thomas



christopher grube



Wood-Pawcatuck Wate...



Elaine



Ahren Cohen



Dave Prescott



Nils Wiberg



Dennis Migneault



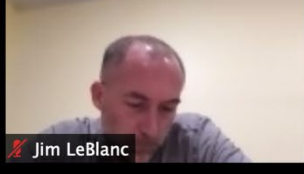
Antonia Bryson



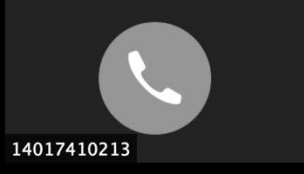
Lauren Barber



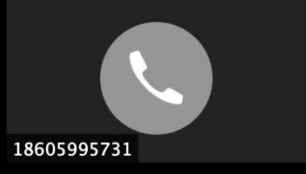
Dick Seager



Jim LeBlanc



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