

Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 3rd, 2020, via Zoom

Attendees: Cynthia Scott, Paul Stanley (and Linda for a bit to say hello!), Wendy Scott, John Little, Tom Bryce, Brian Jerose, Ari Lattanzi, and Lindsey Wight; Brian Jerose joined for a quick hello as well.

- 1) Greetings – **Meeting called to order at 7:06pm.**
- 2) Review of November meeting minutes – **PS motions; JL seconds; all in favor.**

3) Administrative business

Photo contest: **we've had 13 wonderful photos submitted so far. The contest ends Dec 13. Go on Facebook to vote for your favorites! Wendy said she would try to rustle up photo entries from some of the participants in the ECC paddle.**

Annual Report/Newsletter: **Mail it out by mid-January. Lindsey asked for thoughts on what to include. PS suggested that instead of having the insert for donations, perhaps include a paragraph about giving and acknowledge that some have already given – then say “if you want to give more, use the form below”. Another suggestion: 2 slightly different versions (printable and digital), Ari says, that way one can have hyperlinks to include photos and videos. Send both the digital AND the print version to all (~300 emails addresses and ~170 just addresses), with the membership appeal. Lindsey asked if we should send out holiday cards – yes!**

4) Tactical Basin Planning

Ellen has been leading the charge on this, connecting with individuals and landowners in (primarily) Orleans County). Karen Bates has been reaching out to partners; there have been a few zoom meetings with other Missisquoi Basin players. We have state funding to support these efforts, but the current grant expires on 12/15/20. There will be another round, and Lindsey will apply for funds to keep working on these efforts.

Ari talked about working with partners. She is working on a survey for the tactical basin plan; needs to circle back with other watershed partners.

5) Outreach/Projects check-in

Lindsey provided and updated Programs and Projects document, and gave an overview of what we have still on the table and what we will pursue in 2021.

Paul talked about the water sampling that has been ongoing at the Wright Farm. Ellen has found some interesting results and shared those with the Wright's. More information will be shared in the winter. This is a great method of connecting and interacting with landowners. The instant results are a good hook, and the data can also be related to topography and soil sampling. Paul talked about the importance of implementing a project when water sampling results are consistently high.

Lindsey has hired a consultant to help finalize reports and flesh out our recent data – but it would be great to take all our historical data and make it more useable. She will be looking for funds to complete this work.

Lindsey said there will be an informational meeting about the La Rosa lab and the water sampling program on 12/14/20. LaRosa will be more involved with the sampling site choices. LaRosa is aware of the difficulty of transporting samples to the lab in Randolph; hopefully they will be able to help with this.

Lake Lessons – moving to a more digital format; providing more information about the history and natural science of the Missisquoi Bay. Bring in the Abenaki; find funds to compensate the tribe for their assistance. Next steps include connecting with teachers (ideally those involved in the past) – 4th grade is the target audience – to make sure we are providing something that is useful to them and not an added

burden. Plan is to have interactive options (schedule a zoom) and also lesson plans that can be downloaded and implemented independently.

Mapping and website update - Ari reviewed the work she has done on Abenaki History in the area (land acknowledgement draft that will be shared with the tribes soon). Some discussion about hopes that we can do this without stirring any controversy or claims of better water quality from the past/blame game. She also shared an updated map she made to show the Missisquoi River and its tributaries. She asked for editing suggestions and a few were made. Paul suggested layers of interactive maps (subwatershed maps; town maps; trib maps, etc; have the ability to click on your interest) and also wondered if we could put the water sampling sites on one of the maps. Ari agrees - wants to make it easy for people to get water quality/sampling information.

2021 priorities – Lindsey hopes to reconnect with the folks in Newport Center about the dam alternatives analysis that we had done on Mud Creek. Suggestion that American Rivers may be a source of help with dam removal.

There is a stormwater project in Richford that will have 30% design completed by the end of the year; will need to then seek final design and implementation funds.

Tree plantings! 26 acres will be planted in Troy this spring – many partners; Redstart will do most of the planting. But there are other funds out there – it would be good to have a running list of people who would be interested in an improved riparian buffer.

Grants/financials update – mostly covered in the Programs and Projects update; town appropriations are looming – will ask for level funding from the towns we typically ask from. LCBP E&O and Org Support grant deadlines are looming: suggestions to incorporate (probably Org Support) include printing costs (some discussion about purchasing a quality printer, but this seems to have more downsides and upsides), cloud space to back up our files, and paying someone to digitize our photos and organize our documents.

- 6) Next meeting – January 7, 2021 – assume via Zoom
February 4, 2021 – do an annual forum/town meeting prep, at least a short one, via Zoom if necessary?
March 4, 2021 – we'll see?
- 7) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.