

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

April 22, 2014

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Nancy Hallen, SVT; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Lee Steppacher, National Park Service

Absent: Doug and Aviva Brooks, Concord; Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Jim Meador, Lincoln; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle; Anne Slugg, Sudbury

Members addressed invitations to the Riverfest party at the beginning of the meeting. Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:40. The minutes of March 25, 2014 were approved as corrected (Field-Juma/Herland). There was one abstention.

Riverfest Update

Whole Food is not able to support the Riverfest party this year. They have been supported the event for the past 11 years and want to support other efforts this year. Members will contact other stores including Sudbury Farms, Shaw's, Stop and Shop, Crosby's, Trader Joes, Russell's, and Verrill Farms. Stores could be asked for specific items such as cheese and crackers, fruit, veggies, etc. Lee will provide information about the event that members can use when making the requests.

Alison said some events are not happening this year and there are some new events, including a bicycle trip, fly-fishing demonstration, photography lesson, and story-telling at the Old Manse. The Three Rivers Chorus will have available a CD of their RSC-sponsored concert. There will be three centers of activity: Hop Brook/Gristmill, Great Meadows, and the Old Manse. The Solstice celebration will be at the Old Manse on Sunday night. The brochures and lawn signs will be available at the next meeting. OARS will write an over-arching press release, she also thinks that town reps should submit press releases to their town paper. The papers are more apt to publish an article from a resident. OARS and Lee will help with drafting these press releases..

Partnership River Gathering

Cindy and Bill attended the Partnership gathering on the Delaware River. They are still waiting for the handouts and PowerPoint presentation from Jamie. The funding process, including allocation of funds, is still not entirely clear but it is important to lobby Congress for additional money, particularly as the number of designated rivers increases. The legislation gives authority to provide money but there is no guarantee. Cindy said that it is important to be more diligent about recording volunteer hours to use in leveraging additional funds.

There are many opportunities for the partners to work together and to learn from one another. There may be a fall conference but the New England rivers may meet separately since they are managed differently than the mid-Atlantic rivers. Cindy quickly put together an annual report to take to the gathering, which members thought was excellent. She said several topics were not included and she asked for comments and corrections.

SWMI Update

Alison said that the draft regulations have been issued and comments are due June 10th. There will be public meetings in May. There will be a more substantive discussion next month.

Updates

Lee thanked Cindy for getting the small grants RFP together for distribution. Applications are due May 30th. The non-profits will evaluate the proposals in early June.

The nominations for the River Stewardship Award will be evaluated by a volunteer from the RSC (Nancy Hallen), the League of Women Voters, EPA, and Lee.

New Business

Bill will attend a meeting about the reservoirs in Framingham.

Cindy said the Federal Register of April 1, 2014 announces new policies and procedures governing Wild and Scenic Rivers. Comments will be accepted until May 16, 2014.

Libby said there was a notice of tree removal in the river front from the Carlisle Conservation Commission. She gave it to Nancy for SVT.

Demo of Updated Website

Alison demonstrated the revised website, which has the same menu as before except for the maps. It includes a calendar that will have to be managed, could link to other sites like SVT, CISMA, the refuge, and OARS, and would be in a form usable on other devices. Eliminating the calendar was suggested.

Other comments:

- There is no feed-back when you sign up for the email list.
- Logos on various pages should be the same.
- People did not like the barbed wire picture.
- Links could be made to the relevant departments on the various town websites.
- Navigation should be visible. Instead of the title "navigation" use the page heading.
- Add the names of the representatives.
- There is no home page for each section.
- Contact information should be readily accessible.
- Riverfest should have its own tab.
- The Junior River Ranger is no longer a pilot program.
- The search feature is still under construction.

The next meeting will be May 27, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08.