

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
May 26, 2015

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Aviva Brooks, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Jim Meadors, Lincoln; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Anne Slugg, Sudbury; Kate Tyrrell, SVT; Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service

Absent: Doug Brooks, Concord; Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Bill Fadden, Framingham; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Ralph Hammond, Bedford;

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The minutes of April 28, 2015 were unanimously approved (Herland/Sciacca). A note from Lee Steppacher was passed about thanking the Council for its donation in memory of Lee's mother.

Riverfest

All the nominees for a River Stewardship Award were selected. Cindy will write a paragraph about each winner for the program. Aviva and Cindy asked for volunteers for various tasks for the party, including setting up, cleaning up, bringing food and beverage items, tending bar, etc.

Alison said the Riverfest brochure is online on the old website and will be on the new site as soon as it goes live. She brought brochures and posters for members to distribute.

Old Business

MA DOT River Access: The Billerica DPW will put in the boat ramp but has to wait until the town completes work in the wetlands.

NPS Staff Hire: The Office of Personnel Management will advertise for a 16-32 hour SuAsCo RSC position. Hopefully the posting will occur soon.

Funding Decision: Kate is in the process of preparing the application for Federal Cooperative Agreement funds.

New Concord Rep: Tom Tarpey who attended the last meeting as a potential new RSC representative from Concord has accepted a position on Concord's Finance Committee and will be unable to serve on the RSC. The Selectmen will look for a new representative. Cindy presented flowers to Aviva who attended her last meeting as the Concord representative.

New Business

Tom explained his earlier request for a letter of support from the RSC for an article in the Wayland Annual Town Meeting to appropriate CPC funds to repair two arches of the historic Stone's Bridge.

Water Management Act: Alison said there is a Water Basin Workshop on Thursday. Water permits are a little foggy at the moment because of status of SWMI. However the department is pushing ahead with 20-year permits that will need to be reviewed every five years.

There is concern about the Governor's executive order on sunseting state regulations as well as the brain drain that may result from the early retirement incentive for state employees. Not only is there the loss of experienced employees but many may not be replaced. The State Senate passed a bill for water quality testing in the SuAsCo watershed.

RSC Elections: Mary pointed out that the minutes of January 28, 2014 recorded the results of election of officer for the next two years. The next election will be in January 2016.

Bylaws and Email Voting: Jamie will collect other Wild and Scenic management groups' bylaws. These can be used to launch an update of the the RSC bylaws. Especially important is to include language and requirements concerning voting by email.

Partnership Wild and Scenic River 20 Years of Success Newsletter: There will be a conference call to brainstorm ideas for the newsletter. Alison will take the lead, working with Jamie and Tom. Topics from our region could include CISMA, River Schools, Riverfest, and bridges. There was a suggestion to pick about five themes and related metrics. The information is due June 30th.

Redevelopment of Wayland Riverfront Building: Tom related the history of the proposed municipal site at the former Raytheon plant property in Wayland town center. A never-used building, constructed originally for a day care center, is being considered for a COA/Community Center. The Town Meeting appropriated \$150,000 for due diligence on the site, which is located in river front and wetlands. Tom suggested that the RSC might want to take action but there was consensus to wait to see what the due diligence studies reveal. Libby said the site has potential to connect people to the river.

Other New Business, Announcements

Libby expressed her concern about the early retirement package that is being offered to State employees. She announced that the USGS final stakeholders meeting regarding the Birch Road wells in Framingham is scheduled for June 9th.

Renovations to the bridge on Sherman's Bridge Road in Wayland are being proposed. The wood decking is deteriorating and is very loud. Tom said creosote is leaking into the water.

The Sudbury Conservation Commission is holding an NOI hearing on June 1st on upgrading the Red Maple Trail at Great Meadows Refuge. Funding for the construction of a boardwalk and platform comes from the Nyanza settlement. The boardwalk will extend 40 to 50 feet into the button bush marsh for wildlife observation. It was moved, seconded, and voted to support the project (Field-Juma/Perlman). Libby abstained. Cindy described a display of wildlife footprints at a similar boardwalk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.