

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

September 22, 2015

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Elissa Brown, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth; Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Jim Meadors, Lincoln; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Anne Slugg, Sudbury; Kate Tyrrell, SVT; Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle

Guests: Jessica Furbeck (OARS) and Tony Toledo Boff (storyteller)

Most members attended a site visit at the proposed municipal parcel in the Wayland Town Center prior to the start of the meeting, held in the Wayland town Hall.

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and introductions were made.

River Story Update

Tony Toledo said he is in the gathering stage of creating a story about the river. He is conducting research by talking with individuals and collecting books and other resources from SVT and OARS. At his request, Council members talked about what the river means to them. The story he creates will be ready for spring performances.

Each community is expected to arrange for a performance in the community. Members should submit an application to the local Cultural Council requesting funding. Cindy prepared a template for the Cultural Council application.

Minutes

The minutes of May 26th, 2015 were approved (Fadden/Field-Juma) and the minutes of July 28, 2015 were approved as amended (Herland/Tyrrell) with three abstentions.

Treasurer's Report

Anne Slugg distributed an analysis of funds remaining from previous modifications. She said that the "available balance" money can be reallocated. \$1,000 has been set aside for last December's Holiday Pops concert. Alison asked that Monty be paid once the website has been fixed; the Concord map does not work on the new website. The Riverfest balance cannot be reallocated until bills from OARS and Monty have been paid. Cindy will clarify our Mass Rivers Alliance membership.

Old Business

Jamie Fosburgh said that the deadline for applications for the RSC's staff position was today and that lots of applications had been received. OPM will rank the applicants and send us those at the top of the list. Interviews will take place at Great Meadows by Cindy, Alison, Bill, and Jamie for the RSC.

Draft Bylaws

Members went through the draft bylaws and made changes. A revised version will be discussed at the next meeting.

Updates

Bruce Freeman Trail: Abutments from the previous bridge remain but there is no deck. The proposed structure will be an arch bridge with guardrails. The deck will be tropical hardwood. The leaching of zinc from galvanized steel is a concern. The proposed bridge doesn't allow access to the river; such access would require additional funding. The RSC comment letter will mention the material and color of the guardrails, request that as many trees be kept as possible, and ask that an interpretive sign include information about the Wild and Scenic rivers.

Tsongas River Day: Alison said the event was a great success and there are lots of pictures but little press coverage.

LWV of Wayland Forum: The LWV of Wayland is organizing a forum on the Wayland Town Center and asked if someone from the RSC would like to participate. There were no volunteers.

Water Level: Tom Sciacca reported that the Saxonville gage was at 3.8 CFS; the record low is 3.5 CFS in 2010.

MWRA: In response to the low water level, Bill Fadden said the MWRA could release water from the Framingham Reservoirs #1 and #2. He suggested requesting a meeting of the MWRA and DCR. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted that Bill draft a letter to the MWRA requesting a meeting of the MWRA and DCR (Fadden/Sciacca). The members were reminded that they should notify the RSC about relevant issues emerging in their communities. Tom said that the Wayland Country Club is interested in having a canoe access to the river from their property.

Community Grant Applications

Sudbury submitted a Community Grant application requesting \$4,000 for trail improvements in King Philip Woods conservation area. The project will bring more people to the site and have a positive effect on its historic resources. The project budget is \$6,495 for materials, \$6,529 in in-kind costs, \$2,500 for a boardwalk and viewing platform for a total of \$15,524. It was moved, seconded, and voted to approve the request for \$4,000 for the Sudbury project (Sciacca/Tyrrell). Sudbury abstained.

OARS requested a community grant of \$6,000 to update and reprint the Sudbury River guide. The map includes only legal access points. The request is about one-third of the total cost. There was a brief discussion about whether OARS should wait to see if there are more applications from communities. The members agreed with Jim Meador's comment that if the project is a good one and the RSC has sufficient funds, we should fund the project even if it comes from a partner organization. It was moved, seconded, and voted to approve the request for \$6,000 to redo the Sudbury River guide (Brown/Herland). OARS abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.