



## Minutes for June 28, 2022 Meeting

**RSC Representatives present:** Anne Slugg, Chair (Sudbury), Emma Lord (NPS), Ron Chick (Framingham), Christine Dugan (Lincoln-Alt), Bill Fadden (Framingham-Alt), Alison Field-Juma (OARS), Ralph Hammond (Bedford), Marlies Henderson (Billerica and Lead River Ambassador), Tom Sciacca (Wayland), Katherine Sorrows (Assistant River Ambassador)

**RSC Representatives absent:** Amber Carr (SVT), Linh Phu (USFWS), Trek Reef (Billerica-Alt), Eric Simms (Wayland-Alt)

**7:02 pm** Ms. Slugg opened the meeting and asked for edits to the May Minutes. There were none. Ms. Henderson motioned to accept them as circulated. Mr. Chick seconded. The motion passed 9-0 with one abstention.

### Internal Projects

7:08 pm Ms. Henderson said that the frame for the Billerica interpretive panel had been assembled incorrectly by Pannier. Holes that were supposed to be located at the bottom of the frame were placed on the top and were allowing water to seep into the panel. She has contacted Pannier about the issue. She suggested that other representatives check their frames before installing them.

7:28 pm The Council reviewed and approved the latest version of Framingham's interpretive panel.

7:49 pm. The Council reviewed and commented on the latest version of Lincoln's two interpretive panels.

8:01 pm Ms. Henderson and Ms. Sorrows presented their second River Ambassador update. Ms. Henderson reported that she worked with inmates from the Middlesex House of Corrections to help clear trails in Billerica in preparation for Riverfest. She refilled recreation map boxes in Bedford and Concord and is creating an inventory of all SuAsCo map box locations. Ms. Henderson and Ms. Sorrows contacted local media outlets to promote Riverfest. Articles on Riverfest appeared in Wicked Local, the Carlisle Mosquito, and the Lowell Sun. Every two weeks Ms. Henderson checks on the equipment for the dissolved oxygen study at the Middlesex Canal and cleans the auger. She recorded a water level drop of 10 inches between her last two visits. Ms. Henderson and Ms. Sorrows attended a Future Assabet River & Trail presentation in Concord. There may be an opportunity to create a WSR interpretive panel for the bridge when it is completed. Both River Ambassadors led and or assisted with events for Riverfest on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Sorrows attended the Dragonfly Mercury Project Institute where she spoke about the Wild and Scenic designation and learned about collecting dragonfly larvae for the study. She and Ms. Henderson attended a MA Audubon RiverSchools field trip for Happy Hollow students at Great Meadows National Wildlife refuge in Concord. The students collected water in buckets, counted the insects and tried to assess how healthy the river was based on what invertebrates they found. The teachers also discussed forests and various other habitats. Ms. Henderson attended the first session of the Partnership WSR Speaker Series meeting focused on River Steward Programs on other Partnership WSRs. She encouraged Council members to visit @susasco\_rsc on Instagram and Facebook where she and Ms. Sorrows post photos, video clips, and other items.

Ms. Slugg thanked the River Ambassadors for their updates and the work they do for the Council. Council members don't have the capacity to take on this important in their volunteer positions. Ms. Field-Juma asked if they were continuing with their questionnaires for river visitors, and Ms. Henderson and Ms. Sorrows confirmed that they continue to have conversations with river users, make observations, and record their interactions and findings in a running notes document. They have been making notes of which areas are the most popular and get the most use. For example, Billerica sites can have low attendance while the Bedford Route 225 and Lowell Road Boat Launch in Concord is usually busy.

### **Budget Update**

8:34 pm Ms. Lord said that we could potentially have \$48,000 available to be reallocated in this year's budget. She reached out to partners and member towns to see if they had any projects that could be completed from July through September. She received 5 requests: \$6,500 from OARS for "A Communications, Advocacy and Passage-clearing Summer"; \$10,000 from SVT for "Horseshoe Pond Conservation Project"; \$4,500 from Mass Audubon for RiverSchools; \$1,917.49 from Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust for "Concord River Anadromous Fish Video Monitoring Laptop"; \$25,000 from Framingham Conservation Department for "Carol Getchell Trail Planning Work."

The Framingham request would help fund Phase One of developing a master plan for the Carol Getchell trail. The Conservation Department would hire the BSC Group to create an Existing Conditions Plan which would include a Resource Area Delineation, wetland resources, and a base map with points of information. The master plan development itself would be Phase Two.

After a discussion it was decided by the Council that four of the five requests would be funded in full. SVT will be provided with any remaining funds that we have for their work on stewardship and land conservation along the Wild and Scenic segments of the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers.

8:56 pm Ms. Lord said that she would circulate a photo of the sculpture funded by an RSC community grant and installed at the start of the Carol Getchell Trail. Ms. Slugg announced that our next meeting will be on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Before that date she will send out the wording for our current Community Grant Proposal to see if anyone has edits they would like to suggest.

9:02 pm Ms. Lord adjourned the meeting.