

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 21st, 2022 6:30 PM – Zoom**

**Attendees:** Lindsey Wight, Sarah Lunn, Wendy Scott, Susan Staples, Dean Pierce, Dan Seeley, Jacques Couture, Jim MacCartney, John Little, Russ Ford, Cynthia Scott, Jeff Parsons, Michael Haas, Jeff and Annette Goyne, Dea Devlin, Phyllis Utigard

- 1) Presentation of “A Written and Photographic History of the Mills and Historic Structures in the UMATR Region”:** Jeff Parsons of Arrowwood Environmental presented the findings of the Lowell Historical Society’s UMATR-funded grant on the history of local mills and historic structures within our rivers. The presentation included background information about how mills and other structures were built on rivers because of the easy access to water, as well as the accessibility via ice in the winter. Mills ponds were present in most local villages; a prominent mill on the Tyler Branch is the Ovitt Mill where the penstock is still visible and the mill has a lot of equipment (grist mill structure - grist is what flour is called during milling). Different mill types include grist, starch, clapboards, buttertub, boxes, lumbers, and pressed. Waterwheel mills were replaced in early 1800s by steam and round blades.

Mills/mill remnants were found and/or visited in Lowell (Missisquoi + burgess branch: Sillsby Mill and Starch Mill), Westfield (Hitchcock grist mill, Mill Brook campground, Bobbin Mill, sawmill on coburn brook), Troy/N Troy (NTroy Dam, Phelps Falls, Iron foundry, Jay Branch above 4-corners), Enosburg (Atlas plywood, Sampsonville), Richford (in town ledges, gristmill burner in 1800, flood of 1927 wiped out all mills), Montgomery (Butterlab; no sign of Nelson + Hall).

The presentation provided an interesting history of our local areas, pictures of old mills, and reflection on our history. Jeff will be preparing a written summary of his findings to share with a wider audience, but in the meantime this presentation was recorded, and will be made available via youtube.

- 2) Greetings; catching up; call to order.**
  - Meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM.
- 3) Review of February and March Meeting Minutes**
  - JL motioned to accept the minutes, DS seconded. Minutes approved.
- 4) East Berkshire office building update**
  - JL formed Two Rivers LLC to protect his assets. Home equity loan on building, final move out date will be June 7th, closing is May 12th. Gutting of the building will happen in June, brickwork, new roof. Goal is to have the main floor done by Thanksgiving/X-Mas. Storage has been approved in Scott Boyce’s building, the old Dick&Pams building.
- 5) FY23 Budget Update**
  - Make final approval in May meeting
- 6) Summary of March 19th snowshoe event, Amphibian Road Crossing presentation on March 29th, and Salamander Night Patrol on April 14th**

- March 19th, had 5 total people including SL and LW to walk along the Starr Farm property led by Jared Nunery
- March 29th, had 12 people total show up for the presentation. Gave great tips on how to collect amphibians and host a road crossing!
- April 14th, had two community members show up along with SL and LW. Was able to see spotted salamanders and tons of frogs!

#### 7) 2022 Events:

- Speaker Series: May - Birding with Bridget Butler
  - Will happen at beginning of May meeting, topic is Birding the Missisquoi River Basin
- June 12th (Sunday) - Paddle and Picnic; propose a location? (water-level dependent)
  - Trout riverwalk to office? Sampsonville to Enosburg
- July 16th (Saturday) - Paddle/Pedal
- July 9th - Paddle Instruction and tour; propose a location? (water-level dependent)
  - Lawyers landing
- August 7th - Paddle Instruction and tour; propose a location? (water-level dependent)
  - Behind the Monastery
- Fall - Film Fest; beginning of October? Indoor vs Outdoor? Subcommittee will begin working on this project - if you'd like to join the subcommittee to view and help choose films, as well as plan the event (the more, the merrier), let LW or SL know.
- Next winter: another speaker series? Have people enjoyed having these be part of our meetings? Would they work in person/hybrid?
  - Yes! Committee would like to have a speaker series again next year.

#### 8) River Explorers; also Abenaki-focused river camp - Request for Proposals is out; seeking guide for these events this summer. Sent to Umiak, Siskin-Coutts, Axiom, any other suggestions?

- Day Trips??
  - Would like to be able to host some more day trips, but maybe skip this year?
  - See if Jason can do it. RF can help if it fits within his schedule
- Don Turner?
- Start small, overnight at Doe camp for ANM "trip"

#### 9) Montgomery Adventures boats

- Good price, JL will go take a look and send his thoughts to group
- Subject to inspection goes well, then committee will approve
- WS motioned, CS seconded, committee approved

#### 10) Other/Public Comment

- Eric Nuse - thinking of starting to investigate W&S for the Lamoille river

#### 11) Upcoming Meetings

- May 19th, 2022, 6:30 PM, Zoom - Will begin with presentation by Bridget Butler on Birding the Missisquoi River Basin
- June meeting in person? If so, where shall we meet?
  - Westfield Community Center, June 16th, JC will see if available

#### 12) Wrap Up and adjourn

- CS motioned to adjourn, SS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.