

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, May 19th, 2022 6:30 PM – Zoom

Attendees: Lindsey Wight, Sarah Lunn, Susan Staples, Dean Pierce, Dan Seeley, Jim MacCartney, John Little, Russ Ford, Carol Hickey, Cynthia Scott, Bethany Smith, Mariallia Muschette, Annette Goynes, Bridget Butler

- 1) Presentation of “Birding the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers”:** Bridget Butler of Bird Diva Consulting presented on Birds of the Missisquoi River Basin! Bridget presented on different birds that have been spotted along the Missisquoi, including only one bird hotspot (on iNaturalist) that is within our region. She suggested that the committee should investigate adding more birding hotspots within the region (example sites she included were Riverwalk Park, Big Falls, North Troy Tril, Richford Trail, Rail Trail, Jay Rec). She also has a listserv that she sends out birding recommendations to. Within her presentation, she focused on 3 groups of birds: Eagles & Friends, Warblers & Friends, Waterfowls & Friends, and when/where we are most likely to find them. A recording of the presentation has been posted on our website and youtube channel.
- 2) Greetings; catching up; call to order.**
 - Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.
- 3) Review of February and March Meeting Minutes**
 - SS was accidentally left off of the film fest subcommittee (will be added).
 - JL motioned to accept the minutes, DS seconded. Minutes approved.
- 4) East Berkshire office building update**
 - JL officially owns the building (Congratulations!!). June 2nd, during MRBA meeting, the building will begin being cleared out with committee help (if able!).
- 5) ECO AmeriCorps 2022/2023**
 - UMATR and MRBA have been funded for another year for Americorps. SL will be returning as the 2022/2023 Americorps member!
- 6) FY23 Budget Update**
 - Budget discussion around where to put the last unallocated \$5,000. Committee voted to add \$1,500 to Outreach and Education, \$1,500 to Programming, and \$2,000 to Recreation.
- 7) Boat Purchase**
 - Boats are officially the Committees! SL and LW had one person reach out about renting 2 canoes for the July 16th Paddle/Pedal. Kept to Keith’s original rental price of \$10/boat. Committee discussed changing that to \$25 for future rentals.
- 8) 2022 Events:**
 - Speaker Series: May - Birding with Bridget Butler
 - Great presentation during the beginning of the meeting!
 - Suggested having a fall birding walk? Make an educational event?
 - June 26th (Sunday) - Paddle and Picnic; finalize location
 - Location will be office to Enosburg
 - Motioned to move date back to June 26th

- RF will be able to bring truck for boat towing
- July 16th (Saturday) - Paddle/Pedal
 - Rented 2 of the canoe's already (\$10/each)
 - JL will tell us what skid plates to order to protect our boats
- July 9th - Paddle Instruction and tour - flatwater: Lawyer's Landing up and back.
- August 7th - Paddle Instruction and tour - class I/II: behind the Monastery.
- Youth paddle trips - MRBA has received funding for ANM trip; will be setting up a few day of paddling/cultural activities
- 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.
 - Date set for October 15th
 - SL is still awaiting to hear back from WSFF. Will update committee when response is received
- 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.
 - Suggested topics: Geology, plants (ferns focused?), trees (wildlife attached to different trees in the basin?), Historic stories, Historical society talk
- Potential Fall events:
 - Birding walk along the river? Citizen science training?

9) Other/Public Comment

- Community-Based Social Marketing Workshop - June 7th, 8th, 9th from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
 - Three day course about learning techniques to plan outreach that is effective at getting your target audiences to engage in specific environmentally friendly endeavors. If committee members are interested in attendance, the non-profit attendance fee is \$100 and registration is required by May 26th.
 - SL will be attending

10) Upcoming Meetings

- June 16th - IN PERSON at the Westfield Community Center!
- July 21 - location suggestions?
 - Montgomery rec maybe, if JM doesn't need service to attend!

11) Wrap Up and adjourn

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