

Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee

Meeting Minutes, Monday, November 28, 5-7pm

Lyme Town Hall

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by A. Irving at 5:03pm. Members present included; A. Irving, M. Woody, P. Lord, B. Gillis, R. Smith, E. Thomas, R. Chyinski, M. Augustiny, E. Belt, P. Armond, T. Griggs, D. Bingham, E. Robinson, K. Bradley-Barber and A. George. Also present P. Young, Program Director
- **Acceptance of November 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** R. Smith made a motion to approve meeting minutes of November 28, 2016, seconded by D. Bingham. Approved Unanimously.
- **National Park Service Updates:** P. Young noted that there weren't any budget updates.
- **Partner Updates**
 - **TNC:** E. Robinson reported that she has been busy completing fee and easement monitoring. She also noted that she believed there had been one inquiry regarding D. Goodwin's house on the Burnham Brook Preserve, but it is currently not been leased. She also noted that TNC has agreed to a rough campsite at Chapman Pond as part of the CT River Blue Trail
 - **DEEP:** E. Thomas reported that the biennial State Water Quality report was expected to be available near the end of December. Listing for the Eightmile River Main Stem (Western Branch) as impaired due to bacteria will be the same. He noted that DEEP will be responding to the bacteria summary report. He also reported that the DEEP prioritization watershed planning final report should be out shortly. He reminded the committee that the Trail Grant application will be due in December and that Open Space Grant applications will be due at the beginning of February. R. Smith mentioned that East Haddam would be submitting a Trail Grant request to make the pedestrian bridge over the West Branch of the Eightmile River on the Goodwin Trail ADA accessible.
 - **Land Trusts:** D. Bingham reported that Salem Land Trust will be adding 20 acres to Zemko Preserve. Funds partially came from the "fee in lieu" monies collected as part of Army Corps of Engineers permitting.
 - **Towns:** P. Armond noted that the "fee in lieu" monies will likely be applied if the permitting for the long driveway off MT. Archer Road in Lyme through the wetlands is approved by Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has asked for redesign and further justification on alternatives and did not feel mitigation was appropriate on this site. Based on amount of impact, the fee could be over \$100,000. He also reported on a house that was proposed right on Old Hamburg

Road, with waterfront on the Cove. It was approved, since it was an existing building lot, but there are many stipulations which will need to be followed.

- **Subcommittee Discussion/Updates**

- **Outreach and Education**

- **RiverFest Review:** P. Young stated that she thought RiverFest 2016 was a great success and thanked all the members for contributions. It was the best attended yet. At the next Subcommittee meeting, any recommendations for changes will be reviewed.
- **Annual Newsletter:** P. Young said that she will be working on the annual newsletter in December and is hoping for some article contributions. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Eastern CT Foundation:** D. Bingham reported that he had met with a representative of the Eastern CT Foundation regarding Burnham Brook Preserve and possible funding for Educational Programs. He feels that there is great potential for additional education programs. He noted that grants combined with other funding would allow ERWSCC to expand both public education and research opportunities.

- **Protection and Management**

- **Goodwin Trail - northern route update:** R. Smith updated the Committee on planning for the northern section of the Richard Goodwin Trail. Kiosks have been built (corrected from ben build) for the first section of trail and transitional signage has been ordered.
- **Important Bird Area (IBA):** P. Young reported that Audubon CT has submitted a preliminary grant for further outreach and education activities in the IBA. They are hoping to partner with ERWSCC and also local Land Trusts.

- **Science and Monitoring**

- **Water Quality Monitoring Report:** P. Young reviewed the Water Quality Monitoring Report that summarizes three summers of monitoring at 8 sites. She also added Muddy Brook as a 9th site this year. She noted that there were obvious temperature improvements below where Ed Bills Dam had been removed. She included all the edits received. The Committee thought this might be a good report to explain to land-use groups.
- **DEEP feedback on bacteria summary report:** P. Young and E. Thomas reviewed the bacteria impairment designation for the Main Stem of the Eightmile River (West Branch). P. Young had summarized all the activities

to date that the Committee has worked on to pinpoint sources. DEEP has discussed it and will be forwarding some comments/recommendations.

- **Stream Assessments:** P. Young noted that fall stream assessments are complete. Per DEEP's request we have been targeting smaller streams where we have less information. She worked with Diba Kahn-Bureau and her students at Three Rivers Community College and they were able to complete 8 sites. She, E. Robinson, R. Chyinski and another volunteer completed three more sites and K. Barber-Bradley and P. Young completed one on Roaring Brook on Banning Wood Preserve in Lyme helping the Lyme Land Conservation Trust.
- **Project Review**
 - **DOT RT 82-bridge replacement-Salem:** P. Young, D. Bingham and K. Bradley-Barber attended the information session by DOT on the bridge replacements. D. Bingham has suggested DOT look at the culvert at Mitchel Pond Outlet since it makes sense to replace it when road will be closed. P. Young will be setting up a meeting with S. Gephard to look at whether restoring fish passage to Mitchel Pond is feasible.
 - **Hopyard Golf Course-request for diversion modification-DEEP review of diversion protocol and status:** E. Thomas will make further inquiries on this project at DEEP. P. Young will be reviewing the town file and other information on the modification request.
- **Executive Committee/Finance**
 - **Budget:** P. Young handed out the expense report. There were no questions.
- **Adjournment:** Motion by E. Belt, seconded by E. Robinson to adjourn at 7:06pm.
Unanimous

Next Meeting: January 23, 2017—East Haddam Meeting Hall

Submitted by:

Patricia Young