

## **Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee**

### **Meeting Agenda**

**Monday, September 26, 5-7pm**

**Salem Town Hall**

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Anthony Irving at 5:10pm. Members present: Anthony Irving, Mary Augustiny, Paul Armond, Rob Smith, Parker Lord, Linda Bireley, Rich Chyinski, Sue Merrow (by phone until 6pm), Kim Bradley-Barber, Tony Griggs, David Bingham, Elizabeth Robinsion and Andy George and Program Director, Pat Young.
- **Acceptance of July 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Rob S., seconded by Parker L. to approve July 25, 2016 meeting minutes. Unanimous
- **National Park Service Updates:** Jamie F. was not able to attend the meeting, but had sent a brief report to Pat. He reported on updates to NPS leadership due to several upcoming retirements. He also reported on the field meeting concerning Ballek-Lonnegren Lyme Wetlands application regarding the long driveway proposal. The meeting included Army Corps of Engineers, EPA and CT DEEP along with town and applicant representation. He also noted that due to the likely continuing resolution for the federal budget, that fiscal year 2017 will start at 2016 funding levels. However he feels that since the NPS budget has passed the House and Senate, it may have a decent possibility of passing in the “lame duck” session.
- **Partner Updates (TNC, DEEP, Land Trust, Towns)**

**CT DEEP:** Eric T. was unable to attend due to constraints with state budget and allowed travel. He noted that DEEP Water Staff is not reviewing the provisional Integrated Water Quality Assessment report, but he anticipates that it will be posted for public comment soon. He also said that DEEP Water staff is continuing to respond to comments regarding the statewide watershed prioritization project (ERWSCC submitted comments on this requesting the East Branch of the Eightmile also be considered along with the West Branch/Main Stem as a priority for protection efforts). DEEP Water Programs

are undergoing some internal reorganization. The Inland Water Resources Division is dissolving and will be integrated into the Office of Long Island Sound Programs and the Planning and Standards Division.

**The Nature Conservancy:** Liz R. noted the upcoming presentation at Ed Bills Pond and asked which members are planning on attending. David B., Rob S., Tony I., Kim B., Mary A., Paul A., Melvin W. and Pat Y. are planning on attending. Pat will send the RSVP list in to TNC.

**Colchester Land Trust:** Andy G. reported the Land Trust had closed on the 130 acre parcel in the headwaters of the Eightmile and Salmon River Watersheds. They have also applied for assistance in developing a management plan. There is another 138 acre parcel that they are planning to submit for preservation funding under the Open Space Grant due in February 2017.

**Salem Land Trust:** Rich C. reported on a 20 acre parcel the Land Trust may acquire as part of the Zemko Preserve.

**Lyme Land Trust:** Parker L. and Tony I. reported on a 252 acre parcel south of Route 82 near Hedlund Road that the Land Trust is working to acquire.

Pat Y. recommended moving up the Burnham Brook Preserve discussion before Sue M. had to hang-up.

**Burnham Brook Preserve:** David B. gave an overview of the Burnham Brook Preserve. The intent of Dick Goodwin was to have the site be used for education and research. He summarized work that The Nature Conservancy has done to the property and on-going preserve maintenance and recent meetings with Committees that oversee funding to the Preserve. He expressed his opinion that the house on the Preserve would be a good location for ERWSCC offices along with TNC staff and research interns. The Preserve could be a location for education programs, an example of how to manage properties for invasive species and how to incorporate things like native landscaping and rain gardens into the landscape. He thought timing was important as the house is currently vacant. Liz Robinson noted that TNC was actively looking for a tenant for a one year lease. The rental income previously

after renovations had been made was \$2000/month which helps with upkeep and other activities at the Preserve. There was a lengthy discussion about location, funding, potential partners, options for a center and ERWSCC needs. Pat Y. recommended setting up a specific meeting where this could be discussed as a main topic after RiverFest was over.

- **Subcommittee Discussion/Updates**

- **Outreach and Education**

- **RiverFest Updates:** Pat Y. handed out a sign-up sheet for cookie baking. Tony G. is coordinating getting as many donations as possible. A duty sign-up sheet was also passed around. There will be a meeting on site, a few days before the event, but everything appears to be on schedule.

- **Protection and Management:** Rob S. reported on kiosks associated with the first trail grant which is through the Town of East Lyme. It doesn't appear that they had budgeted for all the funds necessary for the 4 kiosks that ERWSCC is responsible for. They are still working through refiguring allocations, but in the meantime Rob S. and Pat Y. recommended ERWSCC approve up to \$1500 if needed to get kiosks built so we can keep the project moving. Unanimous approval by the board to earmark up to \$1500 in funds if needed for kiosks.

- **Science and Monitoring:** Pat Y. mentioned that she will be heading out with Neal H. (DEEP Fisheries) to download temperature loggers above and below Ed Bills. She also handed out a couple of summary graphs of baseline summer monitoring. These will be put into a report along with other collected data from the past three summer monitoring periods along with a short observation summary. She would appreciate any feedback on readability and format, especially from Land Use Board members.

- **Project Review:** Pat Y. mentioned that DOT will be having an information meeting on the RT 82 Bridges and culvert replacement project on and in the vicinity of the East Branch of the Eightmile in Salem. They are proposing to close the road down for up to 8 weeks

and incorporate detours. She will forward information out to the board once she has anything further.

- **Executive Committee/Finance:** Pat Y. handed out an updated expense sheet. The new budget year starts October 1, and she will work on a new budget for upcoming year.
- **Adjournment:** Motion made by David B., seconded by Rich C. to adjourn meeting at 6:50pm Unanimous

**Next Meeting: November 28, 2016—Lyme Town Hall**

**Respectfully submitted by: *Patricia Young***