

Nashua Wild & Scenic River Study Committee
Meeting of the Committee at NRWA's River Resource Center

592 Main Street, Groton, MA

Thursday, April 18, 2019

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

DRAFT INFORMAL NOTES

Members Present: Beth Suedmeyer (Ayer); LeeAnn Wolf (Hollis); Nadia Madden (Groton); Rona Balco (Bolton); Jordan Bailey (Brookline); Paula Terrasi (Pepperell); Heidi Ricci (Shirley)

NRWA Staff: Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell, Al Futterman *NPS:* Emma Lord *Guests:* Mike Fleming

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by vice-chair Nadia Madden

Administrative

The informal notes from the March 21, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

NPS Updates

Emma Lord informed us that Rivers.gov has put out a page for the Nashua Rivers.

Elizabeth updated us on news from Congress (more info?)

April 28th Celebration at the Bill Ashe Visitor Center at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell reported that from the federal delegations, only MA Representative Lori Trahan can attend; MA Senators Markey and Warren will likely send staff members. NH elected officials will probably send letters. From the state delegation, Senator Jamie Eldridge will attend.

We have had 20 RSVPs so far, and NWRA will re-send invitations next Tuesday. It is still anticipated that we may have as many as 200 attend. Not all towns have responded to our invitations at this point, and town reps are encouraged to get the flyers up in town and out to local email lists.

There is a plan to present a "Certificate" commemorating the Celebration to each of the eleven towns.

Lee-Ann Wolf described the plans and logistics. The program is not finalized, but speeches will be short. Parking will be at the municipal lot in Shirley, and there will be a shuttle bus to the Visitor Center. There will be a flautist playing music as people arrive. Rona Balco is looking into inviting drummers from the Native American Community; possibly they could play at the end of the event. Arrangements have been made to rent a 20'x40' tent that will be erected next to the Center. Maps, directions and signs are being organized by NRWA and Lee-Ann. Lee-Ann needs volunteers for set-up on Friday starting at 11 am, and for clean-up on Sunday after the event. She also needs the people who are bringing food to come no later than 12:30 on Sunday.

The Study Committee voted to approve up to \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars) for the cost of the tent; large display photographs of the rivers on foam boards and a map; production of the Certificates for the Towns; and other miscellaneous items that can feasibly be covered by our existing funding from NPS (food and beverage cannot be covered by NPS).

The Committee recognized all the work that Lee Ann, Lin Phu, and others are putting into making this event run smoothly.

Canoe Access Assessments

Al Futterman reported that we have 30 sites to assess. So far he has assessed Petapawg on 3/18 and the Ice House Dam on 4/15. On 4/23 he will assess the site near the Townsend Dam at 10 am. He will continue to encourage town reps and other involved parties to participate in the assessments.

Conservation Breakfasts

Al Futterman summarized the last meeting, at which Joan Deeley spoke on the topic of Invasives. PPTs will possibly be made available on the website. Participants reported it was a good and useful meeting. Al and others are still working on topics for the next meeting, which is schedule for 6/11.

Next Steps Toward Transitioning to a “Stewardship Council” -- Draft Letter to BOS

Al Futterman has drafted a letter to the Select Boards in each town, asking the towns to appoint a Representative and an Alternate to the Stewardship Council. In each letter he will report if the existing Representative and Alternate to the current Study Committee are interested in continuing to serve. Lee Ann suggested that he add text explaining the meaning of being a Stewardship Council member. The length of the term will depend on the towns.

The Study Committee discussed how long to give the towns and we decided on a two-month deadline with a one-month reminder. Realistically, the first meeting of the newly appointed Stewardship Committee is likely to be in September.

8:50 – 9:00 Other & Wrap Up

- Funding discussion: Elizabeth reported that she will in touch with Liz Lacy to see if the Study Committee needs to expend its funds precisely in the categories and amounts originally sketched out in the original budgets. Elizabeth noted that at one point the Study Committee had “placeholder funds” in its budget for a consultant if one was needed while preparing sections of the Stewardship Plan, but one was never needed. Elizabeth is trying to stretch out the funds from the NPS Cooperative Agreement so there will be some funds, regardless of the status of the grant applications, before Congress includes our rivers in their funding.
- Fly fishing: Al reported that Charlie Shadan from Evening Sun Fly Shop had contacted him about possibly doing a fly tying demonstration at the Celebration. Organizers of the Celebration felt attendees might not available themselves of the opportunity that day. NRWA welcomes the opportunity to set up some other future session. Additionally, Mr. Shadan would like to attend the Study Committee / Study Council when woody material in the Squannacook is discussed. Committee members thought that might best be taken up when the Stewardship Council is in place. Meetings are always open to the public.

Note: Next Study Committee Meeting will be Thursday, June 20, 2019