

2009-05-14 Coonamessett River Working Group Minutes

Coonamessett River Working Group

Minutes

5/14/09

Present: Greg Pinto, Courtney Bird, George Costello, Linda Davis, Joe Netto, MaryKay Fox

7:10 pm Report on site visit of April 8th, 2009 with Fred Bottomley, Don Liptack, Chuck Martinsen, Courtney Bird, Greg Pinto

-Courtney updated everyone on the site visit.

- Farm Plan draft needs to include the entire river plan-revamp plan now

Tour from Reservoir up river

- Chuck made it clear he was there to represent fish passage-only! To make sure no impediments

- How to resolve conflicting issues of spring flooding, fish passage, etc.

- Doesn't see town wanting restoration-no \$ for berms, still at opposite sides

-Greg-Liptack still suggesting same ideas of bypass channels, etc. Bottomley agrees with Liptack wants to produce cranberries only.

7:50 pm, TNC Grant application

- Greg-grant due April 24th deadline, awards made known by June 30th. Met with Lisa Cavallero (Narragansett NOAA office). Positive review of site visit. She is contact, not Steve Block!

8:00 pm Charter-end of June is final date

- Greg wanted to ask everyone if they thought the CRWG Charter should continue?

- George thought the group was wasting its time-no support from town, the Brook Trout will die, there is no protection, no habitat but the herring will do OK as they are not here during the hot part of the year. No TU/restoration will get any \$\$ because not a true restoration and the town is not backing it...too much politics

- Joe said we need a group to keep the issue in front of the town administration, be the voice of the town

- MK said she thought the Charter should be moved to the ConCom and not under the Selectmen. It adds a layer of complexity to get things done, ConCom is the owner and managers of the land, and it would help to take the politics out of the issue

- Courtney agreed with MK, it should go under ConCom administration

- Linda was disappointed so far, wants to plan for worse case scenario-if the farmer walks, how do we maintain the area?

- Greg wants it to come to an end; we've done as much as possible but understand what Joe mentioned.

- Joe said that ConCom should be at the Selectmen's meeting on June 22nd when Greg gives the report and discusses the Charter issue.

- Courtney said the next ConCom public meeting is May 20th so he will put this at the next ConCom meeting to make sure it is placed on that Agenda.

- Debra said to talk and discuss this with the Chair of ConCom and discuss issues and re-charter. Courtney should be the liaison to ConCom and bring up the idea of restructuring the CRWG

Charter but Greg give the information. Also, Betsy and Courtney need to be present at the Selectmen.

- Joe motioned "The CRWG charter be renewed and amended to be under the ConCom and serve as a liaison transition team until ConCom designates a new subcommittee".
- Greg asked for a second to Joe's motion, Courtney second.
- The motion passed 6-0 in favor

8:40 pm Year-end Report

- Linda handed out the year-end report she has been compiling. Greg will give this final report to the Selectmen June 22nd. No one had received this until tonight so we quickly went over the list.
- All members should review this draft and get comments back to Linda ASAP so she can finalize this document.

8:50pm Motion to adjourn

- Courtney made the motion, George seconded. All agreed