

**Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 22, 2018 5-7pm, Lyme Town Hall**

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by A. Irving at 5:04pm. Members present include; Parker Lord, Mary Augustiny, Rob Smith, Bernie Gillis, Eric Thomas, Sue Merrow, Eric Belt, Tony Griggs, Anthony Irving, Paul Armond, Liz Robinson and Kim Barber-Bradley and Program Director Pat Young
- **Acceptance of January 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by S. Merrow to accept minutes as presented, seconded by R. Smith. Unanimous
- **Office Location Discussion: CACEE-updates:** A. Irving updated the board about a discussion on the building. P. Young indicated that there hasn't been any further movement on this since the last meeting. A. Irving noted that some Land Trust members would like to see it. R. Smith said he would try to get in touch with the owner to set something up in next few weeks.
- **Community Grants-Updates:** P. Young handed out the updates to the grant application. She is hoping to get it finished soon and asked board members to get her any last edits in the next week or so.
- **National Park Service Info:** Nothing new to report. Federal government is still on continuing resolution after a second temporary shut-down.
- **Discussion on Enabling Legislation to allow Municipalities to set up to a 1% fee on real estate transactions for the purpose of land preservation and stewardship:** A. Irving gave an overview of the Enabling Legislation that CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is spearheading. The bill would allow a pilot project for a set number of towns to adopt an ordinance that would allow up to 1% fee on real estate transactions above the first \$150,000 to generate funds for land preservation, stewardship and bond repayment. The Town of Lyme has sent in a request to be one of the towns in the pilot project. There will be a presentation to the town of Salem and R. Smith will bring it to the attention of the Town of East Haddam. P. Young will approach some of the Salmon River Watershed towns also. R. Smith handed out some spreadsheets from area towns real estate transactions to demonstrate the amount of funds that could be raised. The value of having a power point for presentations was discussed. A. Irving will check with CLCC on that. A. Irving called for a motion to submit a letter of support for the Enabling Legislation.

Motion made by P. Armond, seconded by R. Smith to submit a letter of support to selectmen and local representatives regarding the Enabling Legislation. Unanimous

- **Partner Updates (TNC, DEEP, Land Trust, Towns)**

- **The Nature Conservancy:** L. Robinson reported that Chapman Pond improvements are mostly complete. She is working with Jim Ventres and DOT to see if they can come to some resolution about the driveway access.
- **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection:** E. Thomas indicated that the DEEP Biennial Water Quality Assessment is mid cycle and the last completed Assessment should be out shortly. He also noted that the State Water Plan is supposed to be finalized. There have been concerns raised regarding the protection of water resources as a public trust.
- **East Haddam Land Trust:** R. Smith noted that the Land Trust is submitting a grant for 87 acres that is just on the outer edge of the Eightmile watershed line. He also spoke about the four parcels adjacent to Devil's Hopyard State Park that are under state consideration for acquisition. The state has 7 million bonded for land preservation which is available. E. Thomas suggested a letter of support be submitted to the state. The Town of East Haddam will be submitting one. There is also a parcel in Salem that is in the watershed and has been offered to the state. P. Young will work on a map that highlights these parcels as part of the support letter.
- **Salem Land Trust:** T. Griggs reported that the Land Trust is working towards acquisition of 225 acres along West Road. They will be submitting grant request to fund acquisition.
- **Lyme Land Conservation Trust:** A. Irving noted that the 250 acre parcel that is split between the Eightmile and Whalebone Cove Watersheds grant funding for preservation has been approved. It is contiguous to other preserved lands. The full funding request of 60% was approved.

- **Subcommittee Discussion/Updates**

- **Outreach and Education:** S.Merrow reminded members that 2018 is a RiverFest year and planning is underway. She also noted that summer family programs would be held in July again. P. Young also said she was planning on ERWSCC being at Taste of East Haddam and

Lyme Land Conservation Trust is hosting an Earth Day Celebration at Banning Wood and would like her to do a stream bug program. She also reported on a Bat Program she did for the East Haddam Mom's Club.

- **Protection and Management:** R. Smith noted that there had been a change in management at the Golf Course and he is not sure if they are open to the Goodwin Trail extending through the property so he is looking at other options. He has had preliminary conversations with I-Park above the Hopyard and he feels they are open to further discussions. P. Young asked if they wanted to host anything for Trails Day in June. There are a number of local hikes already planned that day. B. Gillis mentioned the Planning of Conservation and Development update that East Haddam is currently going through. There was further discussion about making sure Eightmile River Management Plan recommendations are included. P. Young also noted that Salem Inland Wetlands Board has asked her to come do a presentation on ERWSCC activities.
- **Monitoring and Science:** P. Young noted that the Water Quality report had been completed. She also said she plans on one more summer with the same sites which would give 5 years of data and then would look at new sites. She has also had discussions with the Florida Lab about biomarker testing and they now offer a beaver biomarker test so that is another option. She suggested setting up a meeting of the Monitoring and Science Committee to further discuss an approach with DEEP. She also noted that she is hoping to do 10 new sites for the temperature loggers in the summer.
- **Project Review-updates/discussion**
 - **DOT RT 85 –bridge replacements (Big and Little Brooks):** P. Young noted that DOT says nothing is planned for Big Brook, just Little Brook. No new updates on this.
 - **DOT RT 82-bridge replacement-Salem:** P. Young reported that DEEP Fisheries says in further discussions with DOT that creating some sort of fish passage to Mitchell Pond is not an option for mitigation due to added cost and time. There are a few smaller projects in the watershed that are possible as mitigation, but DEEP Fisheries would prefer to conduct a more significant restoration in the region with one possibility being

on Roaring Brook. R. Smith asked about a dam on Shingle Mill Brook in Salem. P. Young will follow up with Steve Gephard.

- **Town bridge replacement-above Chapman Falls East Haddam:** Nothing further at this time.
- **Town of Lyme-Hartman Park, Eversource Crossing:** Nothing further at this time.
- **Executive Committee/Finance**
 - **Budget-Expenses:** P. Young reviewed expenses to date
 - **10 year accomplishment report:** P. Young noted that ERWSCC has received an additional \$5,000 to complete a 10 year achievement report.
 - **Summer Intern:** P. Young stated that she met with Sue Cope from Lyme Land Conservation Trust about creating a shared college intern position. It would be for about 25 hours a week split between the two groups.
- **Old/New Business:** L. Robinson said that The Nature Conservancy would be hiring for a full time seasonal position as Griswold Point Warden and asked board members to share that with anyone they think might be interested.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2018

2018 Meetings: May 21 (third Monday), July 23, September 24 and November 26, 2018