

**Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 26, 2018 5-7pm, East Haddam Grange/Meeting Room

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Anthony Irving. Members present include; Mary Augustiny, Rob Smith, Bernie Gillis, Eric Thomas, Sue Merrow, Eric Belt, Tony Griggs, Anthony Irving, Paul Armond, Liz Robinson, Melvin Woody, Kim Barber-Bradley (5.25pm) and David Bingham 5:45pm and Sarah Dagget (Franklin Academy) and Program Director Pat Young
- **Acceptance of January 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by R. Smith to approve January 22, 2018 minutes with the following amendment in bold;

“L. Robinson reported that Chapman Pond improvements *to the campsite* are mostly complete.”

Seconded by E. Belt; Unanimous (K. Bradley and D. Bingham not yet present)

- **Office Location Discussion: CACEE-updates:** R. Smith noted that getting in touch with owner has been difficult and the building is fully rented, but the owner is very interested in working with a conservation group. He noted that the smaller unit may be available in 6 months, but the larger one would probably not be available for 12-18 months. P. Young updated the board on RC&D Inc. status. Due to grant requirements they are conducting a market and usability analysis on a building the Town of Haddam owns. The Baker Lane site did not really need further analysis and two of the other sites reviewed have since been sold.
- **Community Grants-Review and action:**
 - The first Community Grant submitted and discussed was for the amount of \$5,629.00 by the Salem Land Trust for appraisals and signage to fulfill grant requirements and mark property for the preservation of 200+ acres in the watershed. The Land Trust will be picking up the \$25,000 survey and providing match in volunteer hours. T. Griggs representing the Land Trust answered several questions including how property and trails would be marked, need for further environmental review of the property and why an appraisal and review of appraisal are needed.

Motion by M. Woody to approve the Salem Land Trust Watershed Grant request in the amount of \$5,629.00 as submitted. Seconded by S. Merrow. Unanimous (T. Griggs abstaining and D. Bingham not yet present)

- The second Community Grant submitted and discussed was for the amount of \$14,043 by Audubon CT. This request would serve the whole watershed and is therefore eligible for the higher level of funding per the application guidelines. Audubon CT proposes to do targeted outreach, training, work days, promote stewardship and conduct education programming focused on the newly designated landscape Important Bird Area which extends over much of the

Eightmile River Watershed. Funding is also being sought from the Community Foundation.

Motion by S. Merrow to approve the Audubon CT Watershed Grant request in the amount of \$14,043 as submitted. Seconded by P. Armond. Unanimous

- **National Park Service Info:** No new updates
- **Update 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:** D. Bingham reviewed the results of the enabling legislation initiative spearheaded by CT Land Conservation Council. In the short period of targeted outreach to regional towns, 11 of the towns requested to be included. In the end, after the hearing, the bill was not allowed to progress for a vote. There was further discussion about some of the concerns that had been raised and the process for next year.
- **Partner Updates (TNC, DEEP, Land Trust, Towns):**
 - The Nature Conservancy: L. Robinson reported that TNC will be hiring for a seasonal Griswold Point position and asked members to let anyone know that might be interested. She also mentioned an opportunity to nominate a volunteer project and Aquarian may offer a grant to the project under the nominator's name. She also noted that she will be leaving TNC in the summer to return to pursue a nursing degree. She is planning on still participating in events or volunteering as her time may permit.
 - Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: E. Thomas reported that staff at DEEP is still declining. Art Christian who works in Dam Department is retiring, which will just leave Bill Garrish who has been working on the western part of the state. He also noted that the 2018 RFP for 319 grant funding round is out and described priorities under that program. And the biennial Water Quality Report will be out in the next couple of months and he will check to see if anything has changed.
 - East Haddam Land Trust: Nothing new to report
 - Salem Land Trust: T. Griggs will be reviewing bargain sale process and report back.
 - Lyme Land Conservation Trust: Nothing new to report
 - Town of Lyme: K. Bradley noted that a section of the Goodwin Trail in Hartman Park may need to be relocated a little to deal with a wet section. It should not affect the mapping.
- **Subcommittee Discussion/Updates**
 - **Outreach and Education:** S. Merrow reported that the subcommittee had met in February and started RiverFest planning, discussed summer programs and other outreach initiatives. P. Young will be doing a program for Lyme Elementary School and also the Moodus Mom's Club. ERWSCC is also signed up to do a stream bug demo for Earth Day at Banning Wood and will also have a booth at

Celebrate East Haddam Day at the end of April. P. Young will send out times and dates for volunteers.

- **Protection and Management:** R. Smith noted that there wasn't anything to report on the Goodwin Trail regarding the trail extension. P. Young reported that a grant for a little over \$8,000 had been submitted to the National Park Foundation to create an "Outdoor Adventure Map" for the region. It would include local preserves, hiking and biking routes combined with local support businesses and services. ERWSCC will get a notice in April on whether it has been approved. Open space mapping edits are still being made, but should be finished shortly.
- **Science and Monitoring:** P. Young noted that the HOBO temperature loggers will need to be pulled in the spring, and the plan is to select 10 more locations. She will need to fill out an application to request the loggers from DEEP. She also noted that summer monitoring will be conducted again and that she has had some discussion regarding the biomarker sampling option, which now includes a beaver test.
- **Project Review-updates/discussion**
 - **DOT RT 85 –bridge replacements (Little Brooks):** Nothing new
 - **DOT RT 82-bridge replacement-Salem:** Nothing new
 - **Town bridge replacement-above Chapman Falls East Haddam:** Nothing new
 - **Town of Lyme-Hartman Park, Eversource Crossing:** Nothing new
- **Executive Committee/Finance**
 - **Budget-Expenses:** P. Young reviewed the expense report with the committee
 - **10 year accomplishment report:** P. Young will check with J. Fosburgh about timeframes on this report
- **Old/New Business:** P. Young noted that she will be on travel for the next meeting. The committee decided to hold the next meeting on June 4, 5-7pm. Location to be determined.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm

Next Meeting June 4, 2018

2018 Meetings: July 23, September 24 and November 26, 2018

Minutes prepared by Patricia Young