

**Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee**

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**January 27, 2022**

**Via Internet Call**

**Meeting called to order at 6:30PM**

**Attendance:** Andrew Petit di Mange, NPS; Jake Lehan, WRWA; Meredyth Babcock, volunteer coordinator; Carol Waag, Middlefield; Cindy Delpapa, Becket; Leanda Fontaine, Mass Wildlife; Jim Caffrey, Windsor; Liese Schaff, Worthington; Kathryn Koegel, Huntington; Marie Raftery, BRPC; Heather Wyman.

Andrew chaired the meeting in the absence of Carl.

**1. Minutes of December 23:** there was a correction on Liese's contact information. Motion to approve as amended Carol/ Cindy second: approved with one abstention.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Cindy: Invoices received from the Highland Footpath grant and from Tamarack Hollow grant. Submitted payment for River's Alliance dues. Semi-annual treasurer's report is ready to go to the NPS. Motion to approve Jim/Cindy second. passed

**3. New Business:** Cindy reviewed the **new budget** which begins in October. New to this budget will be funds for the stewardship plan implementation. Possible money spent on market research for outreach efforts. Riparian

**Conservation:** money to be spent on identified connectivity projects. Money for a consultant to work on culvert grants as was done in Windsor. All 5 of the culvert projects that we have funded with small grants have gone to construction.

Cindy will oversee this project. Jake has the priority culverts mapped. Cindy hopes to do 7-10 culverts under one contract and get economies of scale in the pricing. Invasive control projects will fall under conservation plan implementation ( the 3rs line under stewardship). Cindy will share the budget sheet and approve via email vote if needed. **River Rally** is in Washington DC this year let Cindy know within a week if you would like to attend – she will have to adjust the budget. **Elections:** A slate of officers was proposed: Cindy chair, Carol vice-chair, Andrew secretary, Jim treasurer. Motion to approve the officers named Jake/Marie second passed. **Website:** Kathryn reviewed the site.

It was created in 2013 the administrator, Steve Hamlin wants to resign. The content requires the use of HTML to update and the site is now out of date: it is not optimized for mobile, there are no metrics, the site has UX (user experience)

issues. We should move to a responsive design which can be accessed by a cell phone. Could redo the site with

WordPress templates with help from a Westfield University intern. Carol will help Kathryn. The **annual report** is ready.

**Road salt reduction training** is moving forward with UMass. Do we want to **buy a zoom or google mail account** for the committee to use for meetings?

**3. Outreach/ Events:** Meredyth: Meredyth is planning to burn the multiflora rose piles in March and is planning for additional **invasive control work** on Center Brook. An adjacent landowner reached out wanting to participate which was wonderful and due to the signage we place on the road during workdays. She will continue Knot weed removal/suppression using the cutting method on Savory Brook. Expand **outreach to landowners** not yet involved. Perhaps offer plantings acquired through out collaboration with Wing and a Prayer. She is working on the intern application preparation and distribution. Planning is underway for the **Vernal Pool Plunge** with Hilltown Land Trust scheduled for April 16 and 23. Plans are to work on Windsor jams Brook wetlands and invasive plant mapping. Neighbor outreach continues along Center Brook in Savoy. We will need a **new committee rep from Savoy**. John Tynan plans to step down. A landowner is interested in hosting a training on replanting after invasive plant removal.

Meredyth asked if the committee is interested in purchasing a **high tech stream table** in collaboration with Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) The table costs \$35,000 and the ask of the committee would be \$15,000 with BEAT fundraising for the remainder. BEAT would house the table. Here is the link to the table in question:

<https://emriver.com/models/em3/>

WRWA decided against holding the **River Symposium** this year. **Whitewater Race:** Meredyth will bring volunteers to the event to place along the route to help with portages and etc. She is thinking of producing a **new T-shirt**. \$2500-\$3000 for 185 shirts. She spoke about the purchase of tablets for the interns to use in mapping projects. It is best to buy them for Westfield State with the agreement that they would update them each year and allow the full use of them from May 15th through Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. She finished a **video** about the DPW using brine to treat icy roads. The community grant for the vernal pool plunge was reviewed: \$300 for food, \$750 for a specialist, \$300 for vernal pool ID publication, \$300 for clipboards. Total is \$1200. Motion to approve for \$1200 Jake/ Jim passed.

4. **Local Updates:** Huntington: MVP workshops are in February and will occur virtually. Cummington has yet to initiate the MVP program. The invasive control group will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

8. **Motion to adjourn:** Cindy/ Carol second passed. Next meeting Feb 24 via zoom or teams.