

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, April 18, 2022 **TIME:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: via Google Meet

	Art Schwenger	x	Chris Bathurst
x	Charlie Olchowski		Ryan O'Donnell
x	David Boles	x	Sheila Kelliher
x	Jim Perry	x	Terry Atkinson
x	Chris Curtis	x	Patrick McCoy

PURPOSE: Regular Monthly Meeting

LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **March 22, 2022** (Jim Perry) *Meeting minutes accepted*

--Identify New Agenda Items not included in this proposed agenda.

Board Member Reports - Potential Open Leadership Positions (Lead?)

- **President & Vice Presidents:** (Jim Perry – President; Chris Curtis – 1st VP; Charlie Olchowski 2nd VP)
 - Celebration of Life for Polly - Held April 9 at Berkshire East. Attended by Sheila, Art, Charlie, and Jim 4 people from DRWA attended, about 100 people in all. We have Mohican-Mohawk Trail maps Polly participated in making, which Jim handed out to people there.
 - Board of Directors Search for Additional Directors: (All)
 - Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
 - CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
 - Issue: How Does DRWA Want to Decide Where it Stands on Various Issues? - Patrick led the discussion. Currently, Jim P has the DRWA taking a supportive, middle to left-of-center position on various resource issues, rather than a more divisive, controversial, or heavily one-sided role. (In the local area, TU focuses on fish habitat and angling. American Whitewater focuses on recreational boating/rafting.) How does DRWA want to proceed when there are opportunities to support or not support various issues that could be controversial or more heavily one-sided?

Patrick says we can usually get enough consensus to support an issue or not and submit a letter of support. Sheila thinks we should solidify our Mission Statement (below), use it as a guiding point. Jim says we could add “responsible public use” to include activities like fishing, rafting, boating, for eg. Chris C says not sure if it includes “Wild & Scenic” is implied either. Chris B says the process of supporting the Clean Water rule inspired some controversy, so clarification through more rigorous discussion could be scheduled as to state whether we support some issues or not. Chris C thinks adding “protection of scenic qualities” should be added. Sheila agrees we need more discussion, then to vote on it. Patrick has been volunteered to organize the discussion of our Mission Statement and update it on the website.

From Page 1 of our Website: *“Promoting healthy habitats, pure water, protection from spills and runoff, thoughtful development policies and appropriate land use practices for the Deerfield River watershed in Massachusetts and Vermont.”*

Past Projects/Issues We Have Supported:

- Vermont Wake Boating Restrictions
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership
- Community Preservation Act Tax for Shelburne
- Armored Mud Balls Project
- Franklin Regional Council of Governments’ Resilient Deerfield River Watershed (Resilient DRW) Regional Partnership Project application
- River Planning Partnership
- MA Bottle Bill
- Support for H. 4041, An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators
- **Watershed Projects:**
 - Northern Watershed Update: Jack could not attend tonight. *Likely he attended Somerset Integrated Resource Summit.*
 - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski) *Franklin Rivers Cleanup will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24th. Greenfield’s Blue Bag event is going on now. Cleanups will happen in Deerfield, not specific, but Pelican plans 100 participants, Eaglebrook will participate. Charlie asks if other towns have succeeded in getting town support for fee-free bags; David says there is some cooperation in some towns, eg. Wendell. David asks if we can have mission statement and current/past projects posted on the website; Patrick says we are doing that. Patrick had specifics on Earth Day cleanup.*

- Green River Festival Booth - (David Boles, Patrick McCoy) *Patrick will follow up with Jim Olsen. Jim P says we have displays with photographs, brochures, newsletter inserts, & maps for handouts at the booth. David says we need volunteers to help staff the booth.*
- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles)
- Monitoring – Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell) *Not in attendance...did he postpone?*
- Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission's virtual Connecticut River Research and Management Forum - Terry Atkinson attended. Fish passage report received from Ken Sprankle. *Will give more detail next meeting, lots of news*
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Update on community and legislative outreach efforts. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy) *Major update! Have made some progress. Talked with John Sords, of McGovern's office...bill is ready to go; Chris has sent us a final draft. Congressman McGovern's joint introduction will happen at Senator Markey's office. Would like to do a press event along the river; Chris has contacts at their offices. What location might we like to pitch this event and who would like to participate? Sheila suggests Zoar Picnic Area or Shunpike or Foolhardy Hill Campground Pavilion. Chris suggests right on the river. Bardwell looking upriver, Patrick suggests, but steep. Jim says Shunpike has a lot of paved parking. Also, Zoar Gap or Deerfield Academy soccer fields upriver of D.A. private beach. The boat-shaped house near Berkshire East? Private property but the owner is fairly easy to work with. This should be happening in May or June. Hold up was that it was stuck in committee, hurdle cleared!*
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher) *Nothing new; next meeting is an All Board Annual Meeting at Berkshire East in June.*
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *Planting trees in Bear River this weekend on property of a chapter member who was hit by tornado 2 years ago. Rainbow Wild Trout Study seeking info from anglers about whether any are being caught; plans to do DNA study to get more detail.*
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. Membership renewed. (Sheila Kelliher with Chris Curtis) *Sheila putting on focus groups called Mass Rivers Connect; she's on Outreach - how best to communicate, technology to use, is also joining Policy focus group and 2 others.*
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Art Schwenger, with Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)

- Jim has 2 cardboard boxes full of the new Mohican-Mohawk Trail maps and put a metal map box at the Franklin Land Trust trail head on Route 2 near the State Patrol Barracks. *We can get more maps from FRCOG. Bait shops would be another great place for these. Jim is trying to get the map on the state's Mohican Mohawk Trail website, to which DRWA can link.*
 - Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status.
 - *We have a few things happening right now and **will schedule a meeting with the Stakeholders group in a few weeks.***
 - - *We have hired Dan Hodge of Cambridge Econometrics to work on the Deerfield River Outdoor Recreation Plan. The upcoming stakeholder meeting will be with him and to gather input.*
 - - *We have hired Hilltown Networx to do an IT/Communications Report to assess cellphone service and the potential for public wifi at river access points.*
 - - *We at FRCOG are working on a mapping project for public safety personnel with signage to indicate emergency exits. Exits would be named also. Jim says the hope is to reduce the trespassing on private property.*
 - *Once we have our stakeholder meeting, we will provide updates on all of these elements. **We are still trying to figure out if there are grant funds to pay for porta-potties this summer.** (Per Jessica Atwood - FRCOG)*
 - (Jim Perry)
 - Graffiti Removal, Gardner Falls - Permission obtained from Central Rivers Power and Luke Wright of Ware River Power on April 7th for DRWA to remove graffiti.
 - Proposed removal project: 10:00 AM Saturday April 30, with a rain date of 10:00 Sunday May 1. *Jim sent photos; there's more to remove than he thought. Jim will be handling chemicals, etc. and he will need help! Muriatic acid & scrub brushes worked really well, and power tools will not be needed. Chris C asks if there's any consequence or fee for this activity; Jim cites power company would have to give permission.*
 - Possible Metal Signs ? - "Please Keep the Rocks Looking Natural" *Sheila suggests a "Leave No Trace" approach. Patrick asks if the power company might have security cameras they could use signage to say they are in use. Patrick says "Smile, you're on Litter Cam" could be used!*

- **VOTED to Approve.** (Jim Perry) *Cost would be about \$60-100 and power company will need to give permission.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - *Nothing new, but will send out*
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick and Jim) *Having a difficult time getting ANY financial information or data from CRC. Jim says Dhiraj is the CFO, Mallory has not responded to any contact from Patrick. Previously Phil had not been keeping up with the scope of his work for DRWA.*
- Last Updated: February 18, 2022**
 - **2021** Budget: \$4900.00
 - Surplus: \$6,431.24
 - Donations/Income: \$8,614.22
 - Expenses: \$2,182.98 (Does not include Monitoring cost)
 - Net Income: \$6,431.24
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
- **Relicensing:** (Chris Curtis)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:** (**Overall Lead?**) (Sheila Kelliher (Instagram) with Jim Perry (Newsletters) and Ryan O'Donnell (Facebook))
 - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila)
 - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
 - Newsletters - **Spring Appeal DRAFT Letter due to Corey April 25** Review Jim's draft. (Jim) *Jim sent out to us all for additions, edits, or changes. When do we want to send it out? Jim needs short articles and photos to illustrate.*
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach: Terry will be giving a talk to Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School 6th graders on plastics in the watershed. *Kids at Buckland Shelburne Regional School are studying waste management and the focus of my talk will be on what happens when plastic ends up in the wrong place. A short summary of 2-3 uplifting sentences & photos for the newsletter will be written.*
 - Mini-Grants – (Terry) *Nothing new, but we could mention there is a little funding available in newsletter.*
 - Any projects for Earth Day? (David)
- **[Science]:** (**Lead?**)

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: May 16, 2022, 6:00 PM, via Google Meet.

Assignments & Adjournment:

Robert's Rules of Order *(condensed)*

Types of Motions:

Main motion; Substitute motion; Friendly amendments; Call the Question; Motion to table; Motion to reconsider.

How the Motion is Brought Before the Assembly

- A member makes the motion: *I move that (or "to")*
- Another member seconds the motion: *I second the motion*
- The chair states the motion: *It is moved and seconded*

The President puts the motion to a vote

1. The President asks: *Any further discussion?*
2. The President says: *Those in favor, say 'Aye'.* (Pause for response.) *Those opposed, say 'Nay'.* (Pause for response.) *Those abstaining, please say 'Aye'.*

The President announces the result of the vote.

1. *The ayes have it, the motion carries, and ...* (indicating the effect of the vote) or
2. *The nays have it and the motion fails.*

HOST Initiating Google Meet

1. Log into the DRWA Google profile using the username/pswd (e.g., login to DRWA's gmail account).
2. Once logged in Google as DRWA, click the Google Meet link and join the meeting.
3. Once in the meeting, you'll get a pop-up window asking you to grant access to each attendee looking to join.