

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, May 16, 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 6:34 PM	Sheila Kelliher
x	Jim Perry	x	Terry Atkinson 7:00 PM
x	Chris Curtis	x	Patrick McCoy

Special Guests: X **James Boehmer** - potential board member; **Jack Widness** - VT Representative; X **Carol Rogalski**, issues with living near Stillwater Bridge.

PURPOSE: Regular Monthly Meeting

LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **April 18, 2022** (Jim Perry)

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

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

- **Special Guest - Carol Rogalski** will lead a 15-minute discussion on **Neighbor's Viewpoint: Living Along the River at Stillwater Bridge - Can DRWA Help?**
Carol lives near **Stillwater bridge** and would like to discuss the increasing challenges (litter, sanitation, parking, water safety, etc.) neighbors have with primarily tubers in that area. Deerfield Police enforce parking restrictions, but based on her input and that of many other Deerfield residents, the problems continue to go unresolved year after year.

- *Patrick invited Carol Rogalski to attend and provide anecdotal information on Stillwater Bridge.*
- ***Carol:** Lived here for 25 years. Every year becomes more and more of a nuisance. Parking, Traffic, Profanity, Sanitation, Cases of empty beer bottles, dirty diapers, Trash, deflated tubes, Public urination, Fireworks, Tossing deflated tubes into the river. Main path to the river has receded into the parking lot. Used as a recreation area. Parking at fishing access is overflowing down to Route 91 and they walk up to Stillwater Bridge. Barriers on my driveway and lawn to prevent people from turning around and doing donuts on the lawn. **Blames it on the Conway Deerfield Portage company.** Deerfield has been fighting with them for years and each time they get shut down, they figure a way out. Now they have moved up to Conway. Never intended to be a park and swimming area. The Police Dept spends a good amount of their time on writing tickets. Deerfield Portage rents tubes, drops them off at Bardwells Ferry, then picks the tubers up at Stillwater Bridge. A lot of people are hanging out in the road intoxicated. Deerfield Portage past customers have learned to do the shuttle themselves and park at Stillwater Bridge. Some people have died. Emergency services called out. I've called out Deerfield police many times and the intoxicated people are gone by the time the police show up.*
- ***Patrick:** Some local people do trash cleanup. No trash cans or porta-potties.*
- ***Jim Boehmer:** Education.*
- ***Chris Bathhurst:** Could bring it up to a Conway Selectboard meeting.*
- *Carol's contact info: carol.ann@comcast.net*
- **President & Vice Presidents:** (Jim Perry – President; Chris Curtis – 1st VP; Charlie Olchowski 2nd VP)
 - Kelsey Wentling, will replace Andrea as CRC's River Steward for Massachusetts. Kelsey was the State of Connecticut River Steward. Lisabeth Jasniewicz will replace Angie as our newsletter contact.
 - Board of Directors Search for Additional Directors: (All)
 - Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
 - CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
- **Watershed Projects:**
 - Northern Watershed Update - **(Cannot Attend Tonight)** Update on what types or issues and actions are occurring in the Vermont end of the Deerfield River watershed.. (Jack Widness)
 - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski)

- Jim drove around Greenfield and was impressed to see a lot of blue bags along the roads.
 - David is finding cleanup sites outside of Greenfield.
- Green River Festival Booth - (David Boles, Patrick McCoy)
 - No news on the Green River Festival. Radio silence.
- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles)
- Special Guest - Excessive Use of Highway Road Salts - James Boehmer
 - Jim B: *Working on a documentary. Bringing the issue to light for DRWA and others. Having trouble getting information from DOT on the amount of salt being used in Mass. Pretreatment programs. Large discharges from malfunctioning equipment. Sand is being called a contaminant and causing eutrophication. Not finding a lot of current science happening. Can be 10 years before saturation and you see effects. Partner with others working on the road salt initiative. Work with the Towns to educate them. Looking into liquid treatment. Safety seems to trump the environment.*
 - Chris Curtis: *Studies. Significant impacts to wells and water supplies. Signed reduced salt areas. There has been an effort to reduce salting in sensitive areas; there's a different kind of policy change needed in other places. Replacing sodium with calcium has less impact; trying to get public works to adopt calcium has been partly successful, but many returned to sodium, as it's cheaper. Need to apply pressure to DOT? There's been a lot of work on this "intractable problem," difficult problem. David has noticed the salt slicks when bike riding. Jim B says he has the material to put up a larger documentary. Perhaps DRWA can fund partially. Terry commented that you have to back everything up with data to be credible and convincing. Chris suggests talking to Ryan; Jim B says he has talked with him quite a bit. Jim B suggests DRWA partner up with him to provide a good documentary. Charlie wants to know if this has triggered a NEPA study. Chris C thinks yes. Charlie thinks we should look at their findings to check whether the science is good and has been effective in finding good alternatives. Jim B looks forward to following up and wants to present to us for a preview.*
- Monitoring – Status Update and discuss invoicing process. (Ryan O'Donnell, Patrick McCoy)
 - *We did not get the DEP grant again which means we are not able to buy the chloride monitoring equipment this season. I will be*

looking into how to make estimated conversions of the conductivity data into chloride concentrations and continue to look to fund the ability to monitor this parameter in Massachusetts. Ryan

- DRWA allocated \$2,000 for Ryan's Monitoring program, but the \$2,000 was not debited in 2021. How have invoices been submitted in the past? How best to do this going forward (i.e. establish a date for when invoices will be submitted?)?
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Update on community and legislative outreach efforts. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy) *Chris C said as of last time McGovern's office was ready to file the bill, now waiting game again. Reverification of peoples' support for the bill being sought...feedback has been generally positive, but he has to remind some towns who forgot about it! They want Chris to present a media event; he talked to the Town of Deerfield. They suggest Stillwater as a good location with a view of the Deerfield, and he has permission from the town. Jim P suggests avoiding the poison ivy along the parking area! Chris C hoping for things to get rolling again.*
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher)
 - Conway Tree Planting, South River Meadow, Shelburne Falls Road, Conway, MA, Saturday, **May 21st, 1–4pm** *Reminds us that students from the Conway School were surveying for Mohawk TWP with grant money. Tree planting event Saturday 5/21 was emailed to all of us. Restoration site has been ID'd to implement the survey throughout the watershed & also Hoosaic Watershed.*
 - Next meeting is an All Board Annual Meeting at Berkshire East in June 7th.
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *Casting event on 3rd Thursday in June. July event about carp fly fishing. July & Aug. not the best for trout, so focus on all the other fish. Annual meeting at Warfield House; Chris Wood of T.U. National speaking. First week of June is free fishing; they'll be having an event.*
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. *Sheila's been attending meetings with different watersheds; she's part of a policy group and will bring up salt issue. Also is party of a communications group. Small watershed associations group she hopes to attend soon.*
- Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission's virtual Connecticut River Research and Management Forum - Report out by Terry Atkinson.
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Art Schwenger, with Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
 - Gardner Falls Power Station will repair trail bridges on the Buckland side of the river later this summer when water is low and they have

- a crew in place to install new splash boards on the dam. *Jim feels it's good they prodded them on the trails on the Buckland side.*
 - The Mohican-Mohawk Trail Map is now posted as a PDF on the State's website for the trail. *If we get a booth at GR Fest, we'll have all kinds of maps to hand out.*
 - Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status.
 - *FRCOG sent out a river planning needs survey which I filled out for DRWA.*
 - *Still waiting on our first meeting for developing a river plan.*
 - (Jim Perry)
 - Graffiti Removal, Gardner Falls - (Jim Perry)
 - Graffiti removal project was initiated on April 30, by **Jim P., Chris B, Patrick M and daughter, and Charlie O**, and follow-up completed on May 1 by Jim P. I'd say that about 90% or more of the paint has been removed leaving some paint in the pores of the rock and paint staining on some of the rock. Hopefully this will expedite natural weathering of the remaining paint staining.
 - We used a nontoxic paint stripper and wire brushes to remove the graffiti.
 - Jim notified Luke Wright of Ware River Power that we had completed the graffiti removal project, but may come back to fine tune it.
 - This project has been posted on our website and included in the E-News newsletter.
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - **Vote to approve** the proposed Website Exec. Summary and Mission Statement which has previously been sent out for review and edit: *The board approved.*
 - **Exec Summary (top of the DRWA homepage):** Promoting healthy habitats, clean water, protection of scenic qualities, responsible public use, protection from spills and runoff, thoughtful development policies and appropriate land use practices for the Deerfield River watershed in Massachusetts and Vermont.
 - **Mission Statement (½ way down the DRWA homepage):** The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the **stewardship, protection, and restoration** of one of Massachusetts' most beautiful rivers. We engage in volunteer-assisted monitoring of water quality, river clean-up days, school programs and watershed education, mini-grants for school river projects, maintenance of the Mohican-Mohawk Trail, river restoration, advocating for responsible public use, and protection of the river from threats to its health and scenic quality. DRWA's newest projects include working with

communities throughout the watershed to seek **National Wild and Scenic River designation**. *Patrick asked if we should devote more discussion on this to a next meeting to avoid clogging up tonight's agenda. Sheila noticed Executive Summary & Mission Statement might be reversed currently as per content. Jim P agrees. Sheila mentions maintaining Mohawk Trail should enter content and/or acknowledgement of Native/Indigenous Peoples. Jim P asks how? Sheila states just an acknowledgement. Terry mentions some history of the area & indigenous peoples' part in this. We can all contribute.*

- Posted Gardner Falls Graffiti Cleanup article on our website **Current and past projects include:**
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick)
 - Outcomes of meeting with Andy. *Met with Andy regarding open items of over 4 months, addressing several items (below). Andy is very aware and training current staff to close out these items. Patrick wants to follow up with Ryan to make sure he gets his invoicing done. Jim says we haven't seen any invoicing for a long time, for years on river restoration. Says we should go back to invoicing approval process. Patrick will follow up with Ryan. Ryan gets \$2,000 per calendar year, not over his fiscal year, which goes way over the budget. Ryan didn't take it last year. Patrick asks if we have any corporate sponsors. Patrick would like to tackle that in coordination with CRC to make sure we are not double dipping. He'll check to see if a list exists currently. Chris C mentions Pelican Products. Patrick mentions Deerfield Acad.; Sheila mentions Treehouse Brewery.*
 - A few items:
 - Your 2021 990 tax form has been filed with the IRS today. This is just an e-postcard with no financial data because your revenue in 2021 was less than \$50,000.
 - We will get any remaining forms (Form PC) that are needed for 2021 filed shortly.
 - We're still working on the IRS penalty issue for the late 2020 filing – that's on us.
 - I am talking with Development staff about whether/how we can create a revenue code for sponsorships, so you can see the GCB donation in that line, ie. No guarantees given how our databases are structured. We have to weigh effort v return on this item.
 - I am talking with our finance staff about the 2021 monitoring fee and getting the journal entry created so you see the \$5,000 from the North River project.

- **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) *We have 400 followers! Would like to have a press release, Jim mentions pictures of graffiti removal could be used. Patrick says pdf version works. Sheila thinking of having a consistent marketing plan for consistency of image, especially regarding Wild & Scenic designation. Chris C says this would be useful for having a handout ready for the Stillwater media event. Jim P says we could add this designation to our logo; Chris says there's a national logo we could incorporate.*
 - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
 - Newsletters - (Jim)
 - **Spring Appeal Letter** sent to Corey (CRC).
 - **Summer print insert newsletter** sent to Angie (CRC).
 - **Summer E-News** sent to Lisabeth (CRC)
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach:
 - Terry gave her talk on Plastics in the Watershed presentation to 6th graders at Buckland Shelburne Elementary School today. They were a good group, engaged in the new information, and good participants in discussion.
 - *I have a lot of information to share on the CRASC seminars and Andrea Donolon's virtual talks, but I will have to distill them down and share separately to avoid taking up a whole meeting!*

Terry introduced what we do at DRWA, started the discussion with where a plastic bottle might end up if dropped in the Deerfield R., and explained how a watershed works and why it matters how we take care of our watersheds. The problem of how animals consume or get tangled up in plastics was introduced along with the harmful chemicals that interfere with our biology and how they affect humans & animals. Bioaccumulation was part of this discussion. The last part focussed on what materials contained plastic, which

plastics can/cannot be recycled, and conservation measures of how reduce, reuse, and recycle can be effectively applied to plastics.

- Mini-Grants – Hold until late summer. (Terry)
- [Science]: (Lead?)

New and Old Business: *Jim P wants to add Stillwater Bridge & Salt to next agenda.*

Charlie says we should make sure to wear name tags when attending big events. Get WRSI's Monte as an advocate for DRWA, as he supports clean water.

Next meeting: **June 20, 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.