



Thames River Basin Partnership April 19, 2016 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Anne Roberts Pierson, Groton Open Space Association (GOSA); Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Marc Cohen, ASRWWA; Ray Covino, NRCS; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Beverly Thornton, Brooklyn Conservation Commission, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Sam Alexander, NECCOG; Lisa Hayden, NEFF/Mass Conn outreach; Jorie Hunken, New Roxbury Land Trust; Dave Goodrich, Hampton Inland Wetlands; Mike Hveem, Joshua's Trust.

The meeting was held at the Atwood Farm, Mansfield, CT

Meeting notes for January 19, 2016 were amended and then approved by consensus.

TRBP meeting participants were welcomed to the Atwood Farm by Mike Hveen, Executive Director of Joshua's Trust

Special Presentation

Lois Bruinooge, Executive Director of The Last Green Valley, Inc. gave a program focused on Accelerating the Pace of Conservation by Participating in the Development of a Regional Conservation Strategy. The TRBP has been identified as a Regional Conservation Partnership (www.RCPnetwork.org) Local land trusts, working together with private land owners and each other, can facilitate conservation work on a larger scale. Currently the Long Island Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is available to supply funds for forestry easements throughout the LIS watershed but primarily the CT River. Land trusts, working with their abutting property owners, may be able to leverage larger forest blocks using federal easement program. TLGV is developing a Forestry RCPP program focused on the Southern New England Heritage Forest, which includes much of the Thames River watershed. Forest owners would be required to produce a forest management plan, but the cost of that plan would be covered by the grant, if funded. Land trusts interested in supporting this project were encouraged to provide a letter of support to TLGV.

TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$2,083.96

Meeting refreshments/supplies for January meeting \$20.86

Final balance \$2063.10

TRBP Coordinator's Report

The TRBP website is still static. The website is available, but the TRBP Coordinator is no longer able to edit the TRBP website. Microsoft ended their support of FrontPage, the software used to develop the website.

- ECCD re-applied to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for funding to support activities related to the Poquetanuck Cove Conservation Action Plan. These

activities will include a Bioblitz of the cove, development of QR code markers for outreach at publically accessible locations, and a revision of the TRBP website to host the Bioblitz outcomes and the pages linked to the QR code markers. Matching funds from LISFF also applied for. Stay tuned.

TRBP Facebook page update: Facebook page doubled the amount of followers – up to 14 followers! The TRBP coordinator finds this outreach tool easier to provide upcoming event announcements than the previous web calendar linked to the TRBP website. If you use Facebook, please visit the TRBP page and like it to get it to show up in your feed, then share the page with your friends to help build followers.

Floating Workshop XVI –

Date selected for the event is June 17, 2016. Theme – the Thames River Heritage Park. An indoor workshop will be held at Fort Trumbull. Thames River Water Taxis will transport workshop guests from Fort Trumbull to 2 other water taxi stops – Fort Griswold and Downtown New London. Final list of presenters and specific logistics are still in the works.

Floating Workshop XVII – suggested focus on Little River watershed, National Water Quality Incentive watershed. So much effort to restore water quality and prevent soil erosion in the watershed. Roseland Park in Woodstock has facilities for an indoor workshop and access to Roseland Lake, plus limited paddle craft we can use and a boat launch to bring in power boats for those that don't paddle.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports were compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2016, tentatively at Project O in Groton.

Meeting notes prepared by Jean Pillo, ECCD and TRBP Coordinator. These meeting notes are considered draft until approved at the next TRBP meeting.