



Thames River Basin Partnership October 18, 2016 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Anne Roberts Pierson, ECCD/Groton Open Space Association (GOSA); Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Marc Cohen, ASRWWA; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Jean Cass, Woodstock resident; Michael Soares, Sylvia Correia, ECCD; Min Huang, DEEP; Dave Goodrich, Hampton Inland Wetlands; Randy Thompson, Marcia Kilpatrick, Hampton Conservation Commission;

The meeting was held at the Hampton Community Center.

Meeting notes for July 19, 2016 were approved by consensus.

Special Presentation

Min Huang of CT DEEP Wildlife Division gave an overview of the 2015 update of Connecticut's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (Wildlife Plan). Min overviewed the changes in the Wildlife Plan since the original plan was approved in 2005. One major change in the updated version of the Wildlife Plan is the inclusion of ten key habitats involving plant communities and 54 sub-habitat types. The TRBP Partners include land trusts, and the information contained in the Wildlife Plan can be used as a tool to emphasize the need for land preservation in areas with special habitats that contain species with Greatest Conservation Needs as outlined in the Wildlife Plan.

TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$2040.87

TRBP donations \$77.00

Meeting refreshments/supplies for July meeting \$19.37

GoDaddy website and 2 domain names renewal for 1 year \$136.22

Final balance \$1962.28

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.

- For now, TLGV has devoted space on their website for a TRBP page. Recent meeting agendas, notes, newsletters and this year's Floating Workshop summary slide show can be downloaded from there. <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/learn-protect/watershed-protection/thames-river-basin-partnership/>
- EPOC has an open grant RFP. Pillo inquired if the TRBP website funding would be considered and was not discouraged from preparing a funding request. The funding request may be viewed more favorably if it included a cash match from existing TRBP

funds. Requested the group to decide if this is an appropriate use of the TRBP funds and if so, how much and whether the TRBP coordinator time should be used for this grant application.

Action item: A motion was made by Dan Mullins, seconded by Marc Cohen, to commit \$1000 of the current TRBP funds as match for any grant for the purpose of updating the TRBP website. After a discussion on software options and estimated fees that a consultant would need to charge for the work, the motion was approved.

The TRBP 2 page fact sheet was updated to reflect the include Floating Workshop XI and Jean Pillo's new email address.

Floating Workshop XVII – will focus on Little River watershed, National Water Quality Initiative watershed. Much effort to restore water quality and prevent soil erosion in the watershed has been in progress. 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.

TLGV has budgeted funding to ECCD in support of TRBP and TLGV water quality monitoring program coordination services at the same rate as the previous year.

Announcements:

The Ashford Conservation Commission will be dedicating a new trail on the Langhammer Forest Property on October 23, 2016. All were invited to attend.

An invitation to participate in Connecticut's State Water Plan on October 25, 2016 at the SCCOG office in Norwich was shared.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports were compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download at http://thelastgreenvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/TRBP-PartnersInActionReport-fall2016_final.pdf.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2017. Meeting location and special presentation TBD.

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