



Thames River Basin Partnership

April 17, 2018

Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance:

Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, Maura Robie, ECCD; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Sam Alexander, SCCOG, Ray Covino, Garrett Timmons, Tom Morgart, Matt Snurkowski, NRCS; Jean Cass; Marcia Kilpatrick, Hampton Conservation Commission. Chris Elphick, UCONN, Lisa Hayden, NEFF, Paul Shaffer, ECCD

The meeting was held at the Pomfret Town House.

Special Presentation:

Our original planned speaker was unexpectedly absent from the meeting. Chris Elphick of UCONN stepped up and gave a presentation on the Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas Project. This 3 year project involves citizen scientists signing on for one of the 601 blocks the state has been divided into, and spending up to 20 hours reporting all evidence of breeding birds within that block. The breeding bird database was last updated in the 1980s. More information can be found at www.ctbirdatlas.org.

TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$2506.12

date	transition	Amount	Balance
01/23/2018	October and January meeting refreshments, plus postage for grant application	-\$35.43	2,470.69
01/30/2018	Community Foundation of Eastern CT	\$500	2,970.69
01/31/2018	\$420 transfer to ECCD for TRBP coordinator time from CFEC grant	-\$420	2,550.69
04/10/2018	Pomfret Historical Society (rental fee for TRBP meeting)	-\$25	2,525.69
		Current balance	2,525.69

TRBP Coordinator's Report

June 2 TRBP Paddle on Poquetanuck Cove in celebration of the Avalonia Land Conservancy 50th anniversary, TLGV's Spring Outdoors and CT Forest and Parks Trails Day. Meet at the Royal Oaks Drive boat launch at 1 PM for a 2 hour flat water paddle.

TRBP website update – The Rivers Alliance of CT has approved a small grant (\$2500) to support the creation of a new TRBP website. An increased amount was requested (\$500) due to the length of time since the original cost estimate was obtained. Three different web design companies were contacted for estimates to support the need for additional funds. Work on this

project will begin once the contract is signed. A RFP will be developed for website designers. Partners, please send me your requests for what you would like to see featured on the updated website.

TRBP Plan of Work – move to extend through July 2018 since limited action has taken place. A \$500 mini grant was awarded by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to support 3 meetings where the current plan of work will be reviewed and discussed. New prospective members will be invited to the meetings to encourage their involvement in our organization. Meeting dates and locations have been established:

- Tuesday, May 1, 2018 10 – 11 PM at the Norwich NRCS Conference Room
- Thursday, May 3, 2018 10 – 11 AM at the Ashford Knowlton Memorial Hall
- Monday, May 7, 2018 7 – 8 PM CT Audubon Society Grassland Bird Conservation Center, Pomfret

The meetings will include an introduction to the TRBP, who are the partners, what have we accomplished, benefits of involvement in the partnership, and discussion on updating our plan of work. The outcome of these meetings will lead to an updated Plan of Work for the organization representing the shared goals of the partners. Any existing partners that are available and who would be willing to help promote the organization are encouraged to attend. For those that can't attend, please complete and return a plan of work survey. The goal is to have a revised plan of work ready for adoption by the July TRBP meeting.

Floating Workshop update

FW 18 will be held on June 15. The theme is river continuity. Workshop agenda and workshop scholarship forms have been developed and once approved, will begin to be distributed. The Chelsea Groton Foundation awarded TRBP with a \$500 mini grant to support 20 municipal scholarships for public works or land use officials/commissioners. Project Oceanology has offered the use of the Envirolab for this year's workshop. Space is limited to 56 passengers which includes up to 20 scholarship awardees. The workshop fee includes a light lunch and the UCONN Avery Point parking lot fee. Joellen will research box lunches provided by the UCONN Avery Point cafeteria. The registration forms include space for submitting license plate info to pre-register vehicles with UCONN authorities.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports will be compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from The Last Green Valley website after it is completed.

Next meeting will be on July 17, 2018. (Location TBD).

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