



Connecticut River Joint Commissions
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CRJC Mount Ascutney Subcommittee Annual Report - 2019

The Mount Ascutney Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) meets every two months and consists of up to two volunteers nominated by participating municipalities. Current members of Vermont are Cordelia Merritt and Judy Howland from Hartland, Nancy Heatley and Howard Beach from Weathersfield, William Manner and Kelly Stettner from Springfield, Thomas Hernon and Margaret Perry from Rockingham, and openings in Windsor. Current members of New Hampshire are Elise Angelillo and David Taylor from Plainfield, Colleen O'Neill and Bill Gallagher from Cornish, Matt Maki from Claremont, and Janice Lambert and John Streeter from Charlestown. Those with only one representative have an opening for a second volunteer.

The Subcommittee provides a local voice to help steward the resources on or affecting a portion of the Connecticut River, particularly on topics related to the maintenance of good water quality and wildlife habitat. Meeting and events are open to the public. The Subcommittee is one of five that make up the Connecticut River Joint Commissions since 1989. Specific responsibilities include providing feedback to NH Department of Environmental Services, VT Agency of Natural Resources and municipalities on matters pertaining to the river; reviewing and commenting on proposed permits and plans; and maintaining a corridor management plan.

The Subcommittee stayed up to date on a number of issues including dam management and the FERC relicensing process. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits. Members made no comment on a permit in Charlestown and asked for more information on an evaporation unit for contaminated water at NH Industries in Claremont. Representatives are following the progress of Route 12 repairs in Plainfield due to a landslide. The representatives completed their review of the Water Resources Chapter, and have agreed to develop education on stormwater management and riparian buffers. In March the LRS hosted and publicized an event on Flood Resilience for Homeowners, with Kristen Underwood as speaker. The event was filmed. Laurie Callahan spoke in May about Aquatic Invasive Species. The Annual Septic Smart Workshop took place on Sept 21 in Charlestown, NH. This winter, members also plan to learn about and discuss the Vermont basin management plan update. The subcommittee plans to invite Skip Lisle to speak about his work with beavers for a potential event in March. NHDES has shared legislative changes to the wetlands permit and is expected to share guidelines for implementation in December 2019.

If you or someone in your community is interested in learning about or contributing to river conservation issues in the region or serving as a liaison to the Mt Ascutney Subcommittee, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org to learn more.