



Connecticut River Joint Commissions

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CRJC Upper Valley Subcommittee Annual Report - 2019

The Upper Valley 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 Lynn Bohi and David Barrell from Hartford, Melissa Horwitz from Norwich, Bill Bridge and Tara Bamford from Thetford, Ben Dana from Fairlee, and openings in Bradford. Current members of New Hampshire are Ruth Bleyler and Eric Agterberg from Lebanon, Alice Creagh and Jim Kennedy from Hanover, Bill Malcolm from Lyme, Carl Schmidt and Christine Bunten from Orford, and Karyn Brown and Helga Mueller from Piermont. 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. 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, and projects by the Connecticut River Conservancy. The Subcommittee reviewed and commented on a series of permits, including five applications from Dartmouth College for new construction and complex drainage systems, as well as the Fisher Riverbank Project in Orford. Members reviewed emergency work done on Pinneo Rd in Hanover, updates on the Lebanon Westboro Rail yard and restoration projects along Jacobs Brook in Orford and Girl Brook in Hanover. The Subcommittee has decided to undertake a review of the Upper Valley region's Connecticut River Corridor Plan and will begin this process in upcoming meetings. In February 2018, the meeting hosted a presentation from Dr. Erin Rodgers on stream restoration. In July, a presentation from Bob Mulligan, Department of Safety Marine Patrol, was followed by a boat tour of the river. In October, Jennifer Griffin, Great River Hydro, updated members on the Connecticut River dams operations and FERC relicensing process. This December, members will learn about and discuss the Vermont basin management plan update from Danielle Owczarski, VTDEC Watershed Planner. NHDES has shared legislative changes to the wetlands permit process 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 Upper Valley Subcommittee, please contact our staff support Olivia Uyizeye at ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org to learn more.