

Town of Canton, CT
Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan Steering Committee
Regular Meeting
April 26, 2011

Draft Meeting Minutes

The Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan Steering Committee held a Regular Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Canton Library/Community Center in Room E located at 40 Dyer Avenue in Canton, Connecticut.

1. Appointments

None were made. The committee may appoint a chairperson at a later date, if necessary.

2. Call to Order

The meeting began at approximately 6:05 PM. A general discussion occurred. During this time, Mr. Sinish explained that an aerial photograph from 1833 is available to view and photograph. This photograph may be useful for describing how sediment deposits have changed.

3. Roll Call

Attendance:

- Jeff Shea, Town of Canton
- David Sinish, Inland Wetlands Commission
- Anne Raftery, Economic Development Commission
- Jim Davis, Conservation Commission
- Todd Jacobs, Parks and Recreation Commission
- Jeanine Gouin, Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
- David Murphy, Milone & MacBroom, Inc.

William Spatcher of the Open Space Preservation and Acquisition Committee was absent.

The committee discussed its role. They intend to be a sounding board for this project.

4. Public Forum

Members of the public were not present. The committee discussed how public comments would be addressed during future meetings. If members of the public attend these meetings, each will be limited to five minutes.

5. Review and approval of minutes

Not yet applicable.

6. Review, discussion, and such other matters as may pertain to the Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan Project

- a. Scope of Services – Mr. Murphy and Ms. Gouin presented the scope of services. And open discussion format allowed committee members to ask questions and comment.

Topics included:

- ❑ Study Area – Will include the Upper Mill Pond and areas within 500 feet of the edge of water. Tangential properties and parcels will be included if they add value to the master plan and make sense to include.
- ❑ Public participation – Public input will be very important to this project. Public meetings will be held in mid-June and early October 2011. There has been an increase in coverage of the Town of Canton in the Courant, which may be related to increased reporting overall. The Canton Patch is a good online newspaper that could help spread the word about this project. A community festival/gathering in early September could be helpful for outreach, although it is recognized that this will be late in the project schedule. Ms. Raftery maintains a list of contact information for five news publications, and will provide the contact information to the group. Mr. Sinish remarked that if a brief press release could be completed before the weekend of April 30-May 1, he could distribute information during the Collinsville Canoe and Kayak event.
- ❑ Sediment contamination – If the sediment has very poor quality (contaminated), then disposal is limited to licensed facilities. If the quality is very good, disposal options are flexible. The challenge could be a mixed quality sediment; in this case, DEP approval for "reuse" may be needed.
- ❑ Oral history – Ms. Claire Cote with the Town of Canton may be completing a project that will provide an oral history of the river and the Upper Collinsville Mill Pond. The committee discussed how this could occur and be recorded.
- ❑ Coordination with other organizations – Mr. Sinish is a member of the FRWA and FRCC. He reminded the committee that the FRCC does not cover the Upper Collinsville Mill Pond, as it is not within the current Wild & Scenic section.
- ❑ Mailing to abutters – The mailing to the abutters will occur prior to the June 2011 public meeting, and will provide the following information: a brief description of the project, the date of the public meeting, and information about how to take the recreational survey via Survey Monkey.
- ❑ Relationship to other projects – The committee inquired about how this project is related to the Collinsville Hydroelectric Pre-Feasibility Study and the redevelopment

of the Collins Company buildings. Although the recommendations that a generated from the hydroelectric study should be considered as part this project, and vice versa, neither of these project should be dependent on the other or require that the others be completed. A realtor (Mr. Julius Fialkiewicz) can provide information about redevelopment of the Collins Company buildings.

- b. Schedule – The schedule was briefly discussed. May and June 2011 will be busy months, with the bathymetric survey, wetland/wildlife reconnaissance, and the public meeting and the tasks that are related to them.
- c. Status of Data Collection – Substantial information has been derived from existing reports, publications, and studies. Field data collection is beginning in the month of May 2011.
- d. Existing Conditions Report – An existing conditions report was distributed. The report contains mainly information that was derived from existing reports, publications, and studies.
- e. Recreational Survey – A three-page draft recreational survey was completed for this meeting. The members of the committee will review the draft and provide written or emailed comments, although a few initial suggestions were provided during the meeting (for example, changing "non-motorized boating" to "other boating," and adding photography/painting to the activity list). Two examples of recreational surveys were also provided. The first example was used recently by CCSU in relation to ongoing studies toward the possible designation of the lower Farmington River as a wild and scenic section. The second was a standard DEP recreational survey. Questions about socioeconomics were not included in the draft survey completed for this project, as they will not provide useful information. The purpose of the survey is not to build a database and conduct a detailed study with the results; rather, the results should help guide the master plan.

7. Set Meeting Dates

Mr. Shea will coordinate the next Steering Committee meeting date (June 7, 8, or 9) and the first public meeting (June 14, 15, or 16).

8. Chairman's report

Not yet applicable.

9. Staff report

Not yet applicable.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.