

Town of Canton, CT
Upper Collinsville Mill Pond Master Plan Steering Committee
Regular Meeting
June 7, 2011

Approved 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.

2. Call to Order

The meeting began at approximately 6:10 PM.

3. Roll Call

Attendance:

- Jeff Shea, Town of Canton
- David Sinish, Inland Wetlands Commission
- Anne Raftery, Economic Development Commission
- Bill Spatcher, Open Space and Preservation & Acquisition Commission
- Matt Stone, Hydropower Committee (guest)
- David Murphy, Milone & MacBroom, Inc.

4. Review and Approve of Minutes

The meeting minutes from April 26, 2011 were reviewed. One correction was made: the graphic described by David Sinish at the meeting is not an aerial photograph. However, a quorum was not present at the time of the review, and a vote was not taken.

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

- a. Soil Scientist Report and Wetland Mapping – Mr. Murphy described the “wetland delineation and ecological evaluation” report and map.
- b. Recreational Survey Responses Collected to Date – A total of 67 written responses (comments) were available as of the date of the meeting. Six of them were deemed not applicable to the Upper Collinsville Mill Pond study area. The group briefly reviewed

the comments. Seven main types of methods were recommended by respondents for keeping informed: email, news media, the town's web site, the postal service, facebook, newsletters, and text messaging.

The recreational survey discussion spurred a general discussion about public access. Collinsville Canoe and Kayak reportedly encourages people to use the parking lot after business hours. The property owner is displeased with people swimming to the bridge abutments and climbing/diving off the abutments. Collinsville Canoe and Kayak does not allow people to paddle downstream of the abutments. Mr. Stone explained that liability is a very important concern for activities that occur *on* and *from* various parts of the shoreline. Everyone concurred that land ownership is an important issue to clarify. There will likely be questions at the public meeting about who owns the boat launch – the Town, DEEP, or the owner of the property at Collinsville Canoe and Kayak.

- c. Bathymetric Survey and Mapping – Mr. Murphy presented a large map of the bathymetry and explained that further refinements were necessary. Major areas of similar depths were marked up on the map and a discussion of water depths ensued. Mr. Sinish explained that studies have shown that a depth of less than eight feet can cause friction/drag to a boat, kayak, or canoe. But a depth of five feet may be acceptable to most users.
- d. Proposed Sediment Sampling – The proposed sediment sampling program was reviewed. Ten borings are proposed in areas where sediment characterization was believed to be most important. In order to keep the master plan project moving forward, the plan will be submitted to DEEP within a few days.
- e. Inland Wetland Commission Approval – Additional information may be necessary to facilitate the review of the sediment sampling/boring application.
- f. Public Involvement Process – Public involvement is very important and continues to improve. Many people have taken the survey, and attendance at the public meeting on June 16, 2011 is anticipated to be high. The survey will remain open until the end of June.
- g. Schedule – The schedule was reviewed. Major changes have not occurred.
- h. Web Site – Mr. Murphy and Mr. Shea will develop a list of maps and documents that should be posted to the project web site.
- i. Proposed Power Point Presentation for June 16 public meeting – The power point presentation was reviewed. Comments included the following: double-check wording of the DEEP contract for the second slide; improve visibility of the map; use “enhance the following values” instead of “restore the following values” on the fourth slide; on the “Objectives” slide, add “identification of possible land and river issues and opportunities” instead of the last bullet; add a slide that explains possible products of the master plan;

modify, add, and delete some of the pictures; and add clarifications on the slide about the project web sites; add a slide explaining who to contact.

With Mr. Stone present, the group discussed the connection of this study to the hydropower study. It was agreed that the two are complementary, and not in conflict. For example, both studies will be looking at the three-foot flashboards. Mr. Sinish explained that the flashboards were still being installed as of eight years ago, and he explained the events that occurred that lead to the end of the flashboard installation each spring.

6. Set Meeting Dates

Mr. Shea will coordinate the next Steering Committee meeting date. The tentative date is August 16, 2011. The public meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2011.

7. Chairman's report

Not applicable.

8. Staff report

Not applicable.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.