

CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION
Communications and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2022

Attendance: Greg Futoma, Suzanne Thompson, Judy Preston, Melvin Woody, Susan Bement, Mike Farina, Jerry Roberts, Raul Debrigard, Ben Lovejoy and J H Torrance Downes

Call to Order

This meeting was convened using the Zoom online platform at 4:01pm. The agenda was formally posted in all eight Gateway member towns, with information directing interested members of the public to join the meeting online.

Website Status. Futoma updated those in attendance on status of the website, highlighting the three opening sections, Experience the River, The Zone, Conservation & Development News and Resources. Work on "Experience the River needs to be completed, others pretty much done. Several sections out of Construction Development will be forwarded to Downes for review and revision if necessary.

Access to website before going "live": <https://ctrivergateway.flywheelsites.com/>
ID: CTRiverGateway; PW: CRCGaccess

Further discussion included topics such as date to go live, for identifying sites to see the river – no businesses as site is not "tourism", article authorship. Thompson, Preston and Roberts will develop a policy regarding the writing of articles and present to entire committee. Regarding the grant program, discussion turned to what information will go on the website versus what to "hold back".

Boat Trip. Discussion turned to the October 13th boat trip. Purpose is business, not social and to renew relationships with partners. Of 45 total spots, up to 20 will be taken by Gateway members/staff, leaving 25 for guests. Discussion of attendance of representatives and senators ensued. Bement indicated that she will again head the food arrangements with assistance from Thompson Futoma will check on the CT River Museum's "philosophy" regarding on-board refreshments. Futoma said, whatever food was on boat last year could be replicated. Gleeson will bake. Downes will purchase beverages. A few invitation ideas include Amy Patterson, Honor Lawler and Eric Knapp of Old Lyme. Lists from previous years to be used. Gateway representatives should ID people in their respective towns that should be invited. Woody expressed that the narrative provided by Downes and Roberts was a key to the success of last year's trip. A discussion of the direction of the trip will be conducted at next Communications meeting. Preston votes "south" (from CT River Museum). Consensus – south to Ragged Rock marshes and then north.

Events. Events discussion included sponsorship events (Source to Sea). Presence at events like the Haddam Neck Fair. Debrigard encouraged members to stop by the fair on Labor Day weekend.

Website Maps. Lovejoy discussed the three website maps, reporting on meeting he had with RiverCOG's Kevin Armstrong who could not attend this meeting.

Upon a motion by Debrigard, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



J H Torrance Downes, Staff