



# Thames River Basin Partnership

## January 15, 2013

### Meeting notes

**Attendance:** Jean Pillo, Scott Gravatt, ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, Ross Tomlin, TLGV; Eric Thomas, DEEP; Jana Butts, WinCOG and Willimantic White Water Partnership; Dixie Goodwin, TVTU; Anne Roberts Pierson, JoEllen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Rick Potvin, USFWS; Steve Broderick, Goodwin; Dave Goodrich, Town of Hampton, Grace Jacobson, Woodstock Conservation Commission; Andrew Vaitkunas; Joe Mack

Meeting notes for October, 2012 were approved by group consensus.

The Partnership was welcomed to Goodwin Forest Conservation Center by Steve Broderick.

### Special Presentation

This quarter's special presentation featured Lois Bruinooge of The Last Green Valley. TLGV is one of several partners involved in a Southern New England Heritage Forest Pilot Project with a goal to identify "woodland retreat" property owners and efforts to use effective marketing tools developed by Harvard Forest to educate them on forest management practices that will benefit their land and the region. Peer to peer outreach is planned.

### TRBP Financial Report

We started the quarter with \$ \$ 2,263.89

10/09/12			\$	
			2,263.89	
10/23/12	Jean Pillo-reimburse	October mtg refreshments	\$	\$
			12.78	2,251.11
12/18/12	GoDaddy-webhosting	renewal	\$	\$
			47.88	2,203.23

J. Pillo submitted an expense report in the amount of \$38.12 for the purchase of an electric tea kettle for TRBP meetings and meeting refreshments. These expenses will be reflected on the expense report at the April 2013 meeting.

The financial report was approved by consensus.

### TRBP Coordinator's Report

All back copies of TRBP Partners in Action Report have been completed and uploaded to the TRBP website.

With assistance from Eric Thomas, Hugo Thomas's slide show from FW 12 is now available on the TRBP website.

Microsoft FrontPage is the program used to update the TRBP website. This program is obsolete and Microsoft has not been supporting it for years. J. Pillo recently learned that people who use non-Internet Explorer web browsers, such as Mozilla Firefox, will not see any updates after

2010. A notice was sent to active partners to only view the TRBP website using Windows Explorer. A discussion followed reviewing options for future TRBP website actions.

- J. Pillo believes there needs to be a designated web-based location for accessing TRBP meeting agendas, notes, newsletters, the TRBP Plan of Work and Floating Workshop summaries at a minimum. Group consensus supported this.
- E. Thomas suggested creating an online survey asking partners what values the TRBP website offers their organization and which features are most important.
- TLGV will be updating their website in 6 – 12 months and may be able to create a designated area for TRBP.
- WinCOG may be able to oversee the TRBP website as a for fee service. J. Butts to inquire.
- WordPress was suggested as an inexpensive alternative to FrontPage.
- It would be preferred if a future website could be manipulated by more than one designated person.
- Several different website programs were discussed that will require further investigation.
- Constant Contact was discussed as a means to create a TRBP partner distribution list for a fee, but some reported the emails could be redirected by SPAM filters.
- The UCONN ListServe was discussed as a potential means to distribute TRBP information.
- Facebook was discussed as an option, but several people in the room felt that it might exclude non-regular facebook users.
- A TRBP website subcommittee was formed, including J. Pillo, E. Thomas and J. Butts. This committee will report back to the full partnership at the April meeting.

TLGV has included \$3000 to ECCD to support TRBP Coordinator service for this fiscal year, contingent on their funding from the National Park Service.

Grant funds to support the TRBP Floating Workshop XIII will be necessary if we plan to hire a boat for the event. Several potential grants were discussed. J. Pillo reviewed the list of 12 previous workshops and suggested Climate Change as a focus for 2013, with a Thames River Cruise to be included. R. Potvin offered the use of the US Fish and Wildlife Service boat. This boat has a limit of 20 people. Impacts from Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy at Mitchell College, the Groton Climate Change initiative by Jen Pagach, how sewage treatment plants are planning for the future were discussed as potential topics. AR Pierson, R. Potvin, J. Pillo will serve on the planning committee. Others not present at the meeting will also be asked to serve on this committee.

Partner reports were recorded in the TRBP newsletter Partners in Action Report.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2013. Meeting location and speaker TBD.

Meeting notes prepared by Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Coordinator, ECCD