**CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY**

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 11th, 2018

11am – 2:30pm

Olver Transportation Center

Greenfield, MA

**ATTENDEES**

Trustees: Liz Austin, Bob Moore, Melissa Ocana, Humphrey Tyler (phone), David Mears (phone), Tim Keeney, Dave Hewitt, Ron Poltak, Annette Spaulding, Astrid Hanzalek (phone), Melody Foti (phone), John Sinton.

Absent: Lora Wondolowski, Kate Putnam

Staff: Andy Fisk, Phil Girton, Corey Kurtz, Aliki Fornier, Colleen Bent.

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Following the Executive Session the board continued to discuss both their role in setting policy for the organization as well as their particular observations regarding the language used in the recent email campaign that focused on the EPA and Scott Pruitt. There was general consensus that the two hashtags used language that was too pointed and directed at a person rather than at the environmental problems at hand. There was particular discussion about whether an advocacy message seeking to have a Cabinet-level official fired would require Board approval. There was not resolution of this particular question, but staff noted that they had sufficient guidance on any further messaging around the EPA and the current administration’s policies. The Board agreed that this question of where it sets policy is one that should be continued and that the Chair would ask several Trustees to set out a plan for how that would happen at future meetings.

1. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: To accept the items as submitted. Keeney/Moore on the motion; unanimous.

1. **ADOPTION OF FY 19 BUDGET**

Andy presented the Fiscal year 2019 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. There was discussion on the revenue targets, expenses, and policy initiatives. The board discussed grants and their assignments. There was discussion on overall budget and the capital budget.

MOTION: To accept FY 19 Budget as recommended by the finance Committee. Moore/Poltak on the motion; unanimous.

1. **NOMINATIONS FOR FY 19 TRUSTEES & OFFICERS**

The board discussed the Trustee candidates for election at the annual meeting. They went over Tom Ciardelli and Neftali Duran’s past experiences, ongoing careers and accomplishments.

MOTION: to accept the candidacy of Tom Ciardelli and Neftali Duran as Trustees for election and Liz Austin, Humphrey Tyler, Tim Keeney, and Melissa Ocana at the Annual Meeting June 16th 2018. Moore/Keeney on the motion; unanimous.

There was discussion about a third trustee candidate, Payton Shubrick, and potentially adding her to the slate of candidates after a decision by the Nomination Committee.

MOTION: to accept Payton Shubrick candidacy if put forward by the Nomination Committee, will be added to the slate for the June 16th annual meeting. Poltak/Moore on the motion, unanimous

The board discussed the slate of officers of the board of trustees for election, after the annual meeting. Current slate of officer:

Chair: Melody Foti

Vice Chair: Dave Hewitt

Treasurer: Kate Putnam

Secretary: Humphrey Tyler

MOTION: To accept the slate of officers of the Board of Trustees for election after the Annual Meeting June 16th, 2018. Moore/Keeney on the motion; unanimous.

1. **BY LAWS REVISIONS**

The Board discussed and revised the By Laws. The following edits were made in Article VI, paragraph 2:

“The Vice Chair ~~shall~~ may also serve as Chair of a ~~standing~~ advisory committee excepting the Finance Committee and shall perform such duties as assigned by the Board or by the Chair of the Board.”

MOTION: To accept the revised by laws and any incidental grammatical changes made following review by the Board at this meeting, for vote by the general membership at the annual meeting June 16th, 2018. Poltak/Keeney on the motion; unanimous.

1. **FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Andy presented the financial report. Corey Kurtz updated the board on the spring appeal status. Colleen Bent confirmed gifts from donors were received, and some had even increased thanks to trustees assigned to them. The board were also informed on the results of Valley Gives, and were thanked for their matches. 75% of trustees contacted their respective donors and big donors still need to be contacted.

Andy and Corey discussed the capital campaign with the board, and the process staff is following for the upcoming projects. The board was informed of two lead gifts for the capital campaign, and the filling of the staff positing for Major Gifts position to implement the capital campaign.

Andy also went over the upcoming capital campaign plans and projects, which include new heating system, insulation, re-roofing new HVAC system and solar panels on the roof in the CRC facilities.

MOTION: Poltak/Keeney on the motion to accept the finance report as submitted; unanimous

1. **LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM REPORT**

Andy and Dave Hewitt presented the discussions of the LCP committee with regard to the Spaulding pond dam reconstruction. The committee will continue to evaluate ways to move the dam reconstruction forward.

1. **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

In the place of reviewing the strategic plan dashboard report Andy updated the board on our work to support the Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail. We will be sending out a solicitation on behalf of the trail, at their request, in order to raise funds for stewardship of the trail. In the following months staff will work with other trail partners to develop a strategic framework for growth and staffing of the trail. There was discussion about updating the Boating Guide and integrating maps and online resources in the next edition. John and Wendy Sinton will be involved in the next edition, along with other authors.

1. **HYDROPOWER RELICENSING**

Andy and Andrea Donlon reviewed the current status of the Connecticut river hydropower relicensing and our various advocacy strategies.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm

Prepared by: Aliki Fornier and Andrew Fisk

Reviewed by: Humphrey Tyler