

Regional Stormwater Education Program Steering Committee

Draft Minutes

Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 -11 am
Hybrid Meeting

Participants: Dean Pierce, Luke Briccetti, Dea Devlin (NRPC); Emmalee Cherington (St. Albans Town); Chip Sawyer (St. Albans City); Kent Henderson, Patrick Daunais, Alison Spasyk (Friends of Northern Lake Champlain)

Introductions

Participants each took a moment to say who they are and what their role is. NRPC will be responsible for minutes (which is why meeting will be recorded).

Adjustments to agenda

FNLC was invited to speak about what they are doing relative to RSEP, and Kent obliged. Additional comments could come from others (e.g., Luke and Dea) as part of the Updates agenda item.

Recap of minutes for May 5 meeting and questions relating to 2021 tasks

Covid had an impact in 2020, and through much of 2021 the pandemic has continued to have an impact. Fortunately, Covid hasn't hampered social media and web efforts. Many website changes (e.g., clean up page) have been implemented. Dea has been livening up social media posts and anticipates incorporating links to TikTok. Dean asked if anyone has concerns about implied endorsement if products are featured in videos. Chip indicated that engagement is desired and to use best judgement.

Dean also noted that it is unclear how much effort was made to involve SAAWA as a partner. He has reached out to Jeff Moulton to ascertain but have not heard back yet. Emmalee confirmed he is the contact.

The group briefly revisited earlier discussion of how the web site should present Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination content. Dean sought clarification. Chip indicated the FCSW website should highlight educational material. The City and Town have responsibility for IDDE reporting.

The last public event sponsored by RSEP happened in June. A Lake Lessons event organized annually by the St. Albans Museum was canceled due to Covid. Other groups such as the Rozalia project have sponsored clean up events in recent weeks. Dean noted that an effort to clean portions of the Bay Cemetery is being planned by Zach Schleffler, a local resident, but moving into fall there is less likelihood participatory events will occur. Luke shared some of his thoughts relating to clean up events, Lake Lessons, and the web site /social media.

Dea is developing relationships with partners Luke had worked with and the focus will be on virtual events this fall / winter and outdoor events in the spring. Dean asked if people would be supportive if Dea planned an online even series in addition to face to face events. The response was favorable. Luke advised collaborating with partners for virtual/in person events for higher turnouts.

Budget

In May the group identified the need to approve the proposed budget circulated by staff. Dean asked if there were there any particular concerns or outstanding issues. Emmalee noted there had been discussion of modifying the budget line for Lake Lessons. It is possible the work could be performed at a lower cost by an intern St. Albans Town hopes to hire. The hiring process has not yet begun. After some discussion it was agreed the amount in the line would not change. However, an asterisk and the following text would be added: "This line may be revisited and revised pending St Albans Town plans for intern." By consensus, the budget was approved by the two RSEP municipalities.

Updates/member comments/concerns

Set date for next quarterly meeting

Dean noted that the timing of the present meeting was delayed by one month. He offered that, based on date of May session, the next quarterly meeting would take place around November 5. Chip asked whether quarterly meetings are necessary. Support was expressed for meeting three times per year, at least one of those times in February/March to allow preparation of required reporting. Some time After the start of the new year NRCP will issue a poll to select a meeting date.