

Annual Report - 2009

Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Wantastiquet Region Subcommittee

The Wantastiquet Subcommittee consists of representatives named by the selectmen of the river front towns from Walpole to Hinsdale, N.H. and Westminster to Brattleboro, VT. As an advisory group reporting to the Connecticut River Joint Commission, the subcommittee is asked for its input on development plans along this forty mile stretch of the river and to act as a liaison with local planning boards, conservations commissions, and zoning boards for proposed uses of land and water within the designated area. They also act as ambassadors to the public, conveying news of the work done by the CRJC and its regional subcommittees.

The completed Wantastiquet Subcommittee report of the CRJC's Water Resources Management Plan was presented to the public in our region at a meeting in Walpole in October. This follows on last year's publication of the Recreation plan developed for this region as part of the overall Connecticut River Management Plan prepared by the CRJC. Copies of the full report are available at the Town Hall and our library. Details of the findings and recommendations are also available by connecting with the web at www.crjc.org.



The Executive Summary addresses the current condition of the Connecticut River, adds information on river flow, hydro dams, the use of the water, land use and water resources, and riverbank erosion. In general the quality of the river fully supports swimming and other forms of recreation, particularly in the region adjacent to Walpole. Warnings about being vigilant in taking precautions to reduce the spreading of Didymo, the recently discovered algae in the River, include taking extra care in cleaning all gear and clothing that comes in contact with the river water.

The economic value of preserving and improving the cleanliness of waters in the Connecticut River watershed has been measured as significant: overall, water-based recreation in the Monadnock Region, of which the Wantastiquet area is a part, generates over 120 jobs and almost \$3 million in personal income and almost \$8 million in business sales, totaling about 4 percent of the recreational revenue generated statewide by anglers, boaters and swimmers.

Mary Louise Montgomery
Walpole Representative to the Wantastiquet Region Subcommittee