

May 13th, 2024

To: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

From: Brattleboro Outing Club Public Comments: Rowing Program: RowBOC

Re: Suggested Amenities for licensing hydro dams on Connecticut and West River Rivers

We are writing to you as a recreational entity that utilizes the Connecticut and West River in Brattleboro, Vermont. Our program is called RowBOC and we are an established rowing program located on the West River. We are one of the Brattleboro Outing Club's programs that have provided recreational rowing to paid members for the past 17 years. Our program is maintained by yearly membership which helps to pay for insurance, rent, and repairs to boats and docks. The program functions with a volunteer Steering Committee and all of the work in our club, including rowing instruction, is done by volunteers. We started RowBOC in 2007 with a handful of members and by 2023 we had 53 members, our highest ever. Our goal is to increase the number of people who are able to enjoy the benefits of rowing and to utilize amenities on both these rivers.

The following are ideas we recommend to create viable, safe and environmentally sound improvements to each river:

Connecticut River: Improvements for the island at the bridge to Hinsdale, NH.

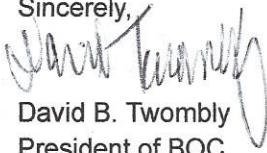
- Long docks for various types of boats to dock: rowing shells, canoes, kayaks.
- Bathroom facilities
- Swimming area
- Changing rooms

West River: Improvements to the publicly accessible docks and the private boathouse of RowBOC

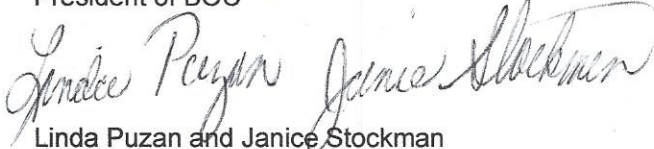
- Docks: New, state-of-the art and environmentally sound dock systems to replace the original custom-designed wooden docks built in 2007. As there is more concern about environmentally safe floating devices for the docks (rather than using styrofoam) we would like to use state of the art docks such as EZ DOCK or Connect-A-Dock.

- Boats: In order to expand membership we need different types of boats for training and recreational use. We would like to obtain what is called a coxless quad (4X-) so more members have the opportunity to row together and to enhance our ability to offer a Junior Rowing Program.
- Building Annex: Canvas structure to house our fleet as we look to expand the program as well as a way to increase income as users of the river can pay rent for keeping the boat at our buildings.

Sincerely,



David B. Twombly
President of BOC



Linda Puzan and Janice Stockman
Chair and Co Chair of RowBOC

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