



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday July 20, 2009
Squire’s Tavern – 100 East River Road

Present: Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Secretary), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Andy Butler (FRAA Alt), Bill Roberts (Canton Rep), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treasurer), Liz Lacy (FRCC Director/NPS Alt), Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep/Chair), Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt)

Not Present: DEP, Hartland

1. Call to order. Meeting called to order by Chair Stanton at 7:15 PM, following an excellent and educational pre-meeting macro-invertebrate paddle trip down the river led by Mike Beauchene of CT DEP.

2. Presentation of Pat Keener and Nancy Johnson Scholarships. Bill Roberts presented Pat Keener and Nancy Johnson Scholarships to Sophie Case and Woodrow Hoffman.

3. Approval of minutes of June 15, 2009, with two typographical corrections: in paragraph 1 the word “sight” was changed to “site” and in paragraph 4, Greenwoods Anglers Trail Update, intern Tiffany Caisse’s last name was corrected. .

4. Treasurers’ Report. Fielding presented the Treasurer’s report. She noted that an additional check was written on July 10 to Tiffany Caisse and will present a revised report at the next meeting.

5. Old Business- Subcommittee Updates.

Resource Stewardship

Vernal Pool Inventory. Anthony reported that he anticipated that the vernal pool ID project will commence again as early as January with plans for volunteer training.

Invasive Plant Management Project Update. The project is well underway. Unfortunately, Betsy Corrigan reports that it will be difficult to eliminate the large number of invasives at the New Hartford Wastewater Treatment Plant site. However, the committee agreed that it was important to continue to pursue this effort. Further discussion was had in the New Hartford piece later in the meeting.

Lacy reported that she had notified the Winchester Land Trust of the decision not to support the project and the reasons for it..

Mountain Road Stream Erosion Project. Lacy and Anthony mentioned that funds for this project may have been earmarked in the budget, although the press release that Anthony had seen to that effect neglected to mention that it was for a Wild and Scenic River. Lacy also reported that she had a call from Jim MacBroom to the effect that he had a student group that would commence work on the project. Lacy will set up a meeting to move ahead on this.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail update. Tiffany is getting ready to put the data on the map.

Education and Outreach:

Etiquette package: Lacy discussed the package of materials that the subcommittee is considering. These included BPA free water bottles, water proof maps of the river, and log books. There was discussion of the various items, and of how they would be distributed. Lacy indicated that Sinish was not enthusiastic about the water bottle. Tiffany Caisse suggested a note pad with etiquette statements on the pages. The subcommittee will continue to discuss.

Lacy present the invasive plant brochure that Tiffany had created.

Scholarships. Roberts will commence in the fall next year. Discussion of how the scholarships were originated and funded.

Kiosks: Lacy reported that Miler is ironing out the final details.

Outings: Jones will send out information by email.

Outreach Activities: Fielding has circulated a project proposal for outreach to the local land trusts which will be considered by the subcommittee. She indicate that there will be is an addendum to the Outreach proposal as Aimee Petras is interested in attending a land trust alliance conference in Portland Oregon. Fielding will forward this to the subcommittee in a few days. Travis expressed interest in the project and desire to be on the subcommittee to be able to have some input in the proposal.

Executive:

Grants: Lacy indicated that she is working with the folks at the Hartland Land Trust close out the grant from 2006 – there are still funds that remain but the tasks outlined in the original grant may be re-configured to expedite the close out. FRCC will have to okay any changes to tasks.

Management Plan Update and Reimbursement Policy: These items were tabled as the Executive Committee meeting scheduled for earlier in the day had been cancelled. The Committee did approve Fielding's request for reimbursement for her trip to River Rally.

New Business/Other

Approval of Modifications to Annual Work Plan and Budget: Lacy handed out a revised work plan and budget for review. Discussion was held on the following items:

Stanton suggested that Item 11, be amended to incorporate "low impact development" designs for road maintenance and stream crossings. The allocated amount will be increased to \$5000 for the three towns with committees working on the Farmington River Enhancement Grants. Stanton and Travis will head up this project in Colebrook.

Item 10 - Squires Tavern Restoration; inasmuch as this item has been carried over for a long time and not used, it was decided that Lacy will inform them that if it is not used by September 1, 2009 it be removed. The Barkhamsted Historical Society can reapply if a fundable project materializes.

Item 26 - The amount allocated for River Etiquette will be increased by \$5,000 to increase the options for several pieces in the package.

Item 27 - Local Land Use support will be increased to \$5000. Further discussion about the need to get out to talk to folks about the \$10,000 grant opportunity, as well as about other possible activities such as invasive plant removal projects. It was also suggested that members of the Committee could become more personally involved

in projects. This could provide another way for communities to become aware of the opportunities FRCC can offer.

Item 22 - Kiosks - will be increased by \$1000 to repair the one across the street.

Lacy reported that rent and insurance (Item 43) had gone up to \$3750 and that the salary for the intern was being taken out of Item 34, organizational development. This amount will be increased.

Stanton suggested we hire someone to work on a PR video of the river that would enhance our visibility. It could be used in the future as both an education piece and a way to gain support for such things as the US Mint quarter project.

FRCC Chairmanship: Stanton stated that he needed to resign as chair due to the pressure of professional and personal matters. Jones had informally agreed to serve as Chair, and Stanton agreed to become Vice Chair. Stanton submitted his resignation. It was then moved, seconded and voted unanimously by those in attendance (Hartland and DEP absent) that Jones will assume the Chair position and Stanton will serve as Vice Chair. (Amendment to minutes - Susan Peterson, DEP, and Nicki Hall, Hartland, voted post meeting in favor – the vote became unanimous for all FRCC members.)

6. Town Reports

New Hartford: Wastewater treatment plans upgrade project update. Further discussion about the concern about our ability to provide a meaningful landscaping plan due to the amount of invasive plants at the site. It was determined that we need to push ahead on this in any event as it could set an important precedent for the process by which invasives can be eliminated and an area re-landscaped. Lacy will check with Jim MacBroom and we could also do an RFP to find someone to take this on.

Barkhamsted: Old bridge abutment project. Lacy advised of the proposal to build an observation deck and fishing platform on the old bridge abutments. There was discussion about what kind of permits would be required. Lacy will contact Don Stein for more information. We were also informed of an upcoming river race; Anthony indicated that MDC was not regularly informed about these events. He stated that at present he just tried his best to keep his eyes and ears open, but that there seems to be no coordinated way to get information about planned events on the river. A general discussion ensued about the need to have a clearinghouse for events on the river. Fielding indicated she would include such information in the FRWA newsletter in the future.

7. Next Meeting Dates: August 17 with pre-meeting trip to Hartland and dinner/meeting at Jones' house;
September 17 FRCC Open House/Art Exhibit

Next subcommittee meetings to be arranged by email.

Adjourned 8:52 PM.