



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2010
Squire’s Tavern, 100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Pre-meeting Presentation

Alisa Phillip-Griggs (FRWA) provided her annual water quality and macro-invertebrate monitoring update on selected streams within the upper Farmington River basin. FRCC has been providing funding to this stream monitoring program for a number of years. (A subset of Committee members listed below attended this 6:00 p.m. presentation.)

Regular FRCC Meeting

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt), Fred Jones (Hartland Rep), Tom Karpeichik (FRAA Alt), Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director), Jean Miller (Barkhamsted Rep), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep/Secretary), Paul Pinette (FRAA rep), Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:05 p.m.

Introductions - Paul Pinette, the new FRAA representative, was introduced.

Point of Business – Lacy and Travis reminded the Committee that, according to the by-laws, meetings can run until 9:30 p.m. and members should plan on that possibility. To continue a meeting past 9:30 p.m., members must vote.

2. **Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2010 meeting:** Under “Education and Outreach”, “Land Trust Outreach”, change reference to “FRCC” to “FRWA”. Minutes were approved as amended.
3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Roberts unable to attend meeting. In his place, Fielding presented the Treasurer’s Report (as of May 6, 2010). The list of expenses may need to be “tweaked”, specifically with regard to the newsletter. The Elm Press expense for \$950.00 was mistakenly recorded to FRCC’s expenses when it actually is associated with another account that FRWA also tracks. New (checking) account balance as of May 6, 2010 is: \$15, 863.58.

Lacy reported that the NPS funding installment for this year will be: \$69,000. This is slightly lower than last year.

Lacy also noted that there is a slight discrepancy between FRCC and NPS records with regard to (existing) funds. Lacy is in the process of trying to resolve this situation. Lacy believes that we have actually spent more money than NPS records indicate. Until this discrepancy is resolved, FRCC needs to be careful to not spend more than we actually have, especially with regard to promising funding to potential grantees.

4. **Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship

Hartland Build-out Proposal – The Resource Stewardship SubCommittee recommends that the grant request be funded. (Discussion deferred to Executive SubCommittee report.)

Invasive Plant Management Project – Betsy Corrigan is working on the project. Lacy met with her about putting together a progressive task payment list. Tiffany (intern) will probably work with Corrigan again. Corrigan is to develop a management plan.

Still River Watershed Study – FRWA is just getting started on this project.

Water Quality Monitoring – Alissa Phillips-Griggs (FRWA) did a presentation prior to the FRCC meeting. Fielding thanked MDC for lab analysis support.

Jones asked about Thorn Brook, the first significant tributary below the Goodwin/Hogback Dam spillway, as it does not appear to be on FRWA's "radar". FRWA remarked that additional funding would be necessary if additional tributaries were to be monitored. Anthony pointed out that monitoring site "FR1" is a very short distance downstream of the dam, and this section of the river is very cold and clean. Thorn Brook would be in "FR1". Jones is concerned about bench-marking Thorn Brook. Fielding suggested sending an e-mail to Phillips-Griggs.

Land Protection – No discussion other than grants. (Discussed during Executive SubCommittee report.)

Vernal Pools – Corrigan is currently working on vernal pool field verification in Canton.

Note – Mike Klemmens is doing a biodiversity study in Barkhamsted as part of LID project. Is there any data that he might be able to use?

Greenwoods Anglers' Trail – Vehicles have been going down the trail. MDC will need to cordon off these areas. Rich Stolis (FRAA) has not been able to do signage. FRCC needs to find someone else who is able to pick up this project and "champion" it. Perhaps can get information from Stolis to carry this project forward? Perhaps Tiffany (intern) could assist with this task?

Concern raised about addressing wet areas to make them more passable. Concern also raised about some fisherman arriving and fishing after dark which they are not supposed to do. Anthony provided phone numbers to call when this type of activity is observed in future.

Mountain Road – The National Park Service just approved the scope of work put together by USDA NRCS and the Town of Barkhamsted. (NPS reviewed scope because this is a federally funded project.)

Education and Outreach

Newsletter – The Spring issue of the newsletter has been completed. Jones thanked everyone who contributed articles and/or otherwise worked on the newsletter.

Etiquette Package – Jones met with Mary Crombie three weeks ago. She has put together a rough proof of the map. It will include: put-ins, fishing spots, etc. It looks nice. We will need to give her feedback.

The map will be waterproof. Side 1 - to show the 14 mile stretch of the river. Side 2 - to provide river etiquette tips; FRCC information; define river-related terms; etc. We hope to distribute maps through bait shops, etc.

Scholarships – Three applications were received: 2 from Canton, and 1 from Barkhamsted. The Education and Outreach SubCommittee recommends that the Pat Keener Scholarship go to: Elise Minichiello (Canton); and that the Nancy Johnson Scholarship go to: Daniel LeDuc (Canton). It was suggested that the recipients be invited to an upcoming FRCC meeting. Lacy will have Roberts send congratulatory letters to the recipients.

Outreach to Town Boards – It is difficult to reach out to boards right now because it is town budget time. However, it is important that FRCC continue to pursue outreach once past this period.

Land Trust Outreach – Aimee Petras (FRWA) has set up a W&S area land trust meeting for Wednesday, June 8th; time and location likely at Squire's. Petras is to provide Travis and Jones with details. Travis said that the Housatonic Valley Association's "Greenprint" project will be discussed at this meeting.

The Land Trust Alliance Rally will take place in Hartford in October. It was agreed that FRCC would fund one-half of a registration for one representative from each land trust located in an FRCC town. This funding would total \$1,125. This amount will be in addition to the \$5,000 that FRCC is paying FRWA for Petras to perform land trust outreach.

DVD – The DVD will be about 6-8 minutes long. It will be put on “YouTube” and on the FRCC website. Jones met with Hall to start hashing out a script. They plan to meet again in mid-May to continue working on it

Kiosks – The kiosk panels have been completed. Stanton is to pick them up from the printer and deliver them soon. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Stanton directly.

Executive

Grants:

Hartland Land Trust Build-out Analysis - \$3500. The Resource Stewardship SubCommittee recommends funding this project. Applicant has reformatted their request to fit our application format. FRWA will be doing the bulk of the work

Sandy Brook Natural Area Preserve - Management Plan - \$4200. The Colebrook Land Conservancy (CLC) plans to hire consultant Harry White who will get assistance from Betsy Corrigan to create the management plan. The Resource Stewardship SubCommittee raised several questions as to whether the process will follow CT DEP protocols, and CLC has adjusted their proposal accordingly. FRCC agreed to fund this application.

Edith Leopold Audubon Sanctuary – Re: existing funds. This is an old, existing project that FRCC funded. Jones noted that a brochure still needs to be created. Lacy said that creation of the brochure is described in the project work plan. Since there is about \$2600 remaining in the project account, it is okay to proceed with developing the brochure.

Miner Lane Detention Basin Repairs – \$10,000. Don Stein, First Selectman of the Town of Barkhamsted, has requested funding from FRCC for this project which concerns an old detention basin associated with a subdivision off of Miner Lane. The basin is failing and causing erosion and gulying issues. Sean Hayden of the Northwest Conservation District (NCD) is also involved with this issue.

The Town would like retrofit this basin and has request \$11,000 from FRCC for engineering and design. The Resource Stewardship SubCommittee recommended funding the project for up to \$10,000. FRCC needs to make it clear to the Town that we want this be a demonstration project which features LID/BMP techniques , as we would like to encourage these types of practices. Fielding suggested that we approve the project application conditionally. Lacy said that we should make sure that NCD is involved with project. FRCC should be credited with helping to fund the project and be able to use it for publicity. Lacy will make sure that these conditions are described in the contract.

Leoni Property – Do not fund. At the last Resource Stewardship SubCommittee meeting, Peterson had suggested that FRCC consider contributing a modest amount of money to the City of Torrington’s fund-raising appeal to purchase the Leoni property along the Still River and Sue Grossman Greenway in Torrington. FRCC members felt that funding this project would be inconsistent with our decision not to fund a similar land purchase project in Winsted. Neither of these communities are FRCC towns. Instead, it was suggested that perhaps FRCC send a note to Torrington to let them know that we support the project. We could also offer to share the water quality data that is derived from the FRWA monitoring project which we help fund. Fielding suggested that FRWA could also provide a letter of support. FRCC voted not to fund the project but to provide a letter of support. Lacy will draft a letter and circulate it for review. FRWA will also write a letter of support.

Camp Jewell - Re: existing project that was funded. Travis pointed out that it is important to get feedback from grantees. FRCC has not heard anything from Camp Jewell grant applicants which received funding up-front for their project.

5. New Business/Other:

River Access Issue – Miller noted that there are now “no parking” signs along the Rte. 44 stretch of Farmington River across from Bristol Farms in Canton. This creates a situation where this is no exit access from the river. It was suggested that FRCC speak with CT DEP and private property owners about this issue.

Robinson mentioned that her husband is one of the owners of Bristol Farms. The owners recently had a land survey done which revealed that they owned this strip of land along the river. Bristol Farms posted the “no parking” signs as a liability measure. CT DEP has contacted Bristol Farms and requested a meeting with them to discuss the possibility of leasing this riverfront land.

This issue could be discussed during the management plan update with regard to carrying capacity, etc.

6. Town Reports:

New Hartford – Murdock reported that there had been recent changes in Town staff. Both the Crew Foreman, and Zoning and Inland Wetland Enforcement Officer had been let go due to questionable practices involving Town funds and services. FRCC hopes to move forward with Town projects and issues, once new staff are in place.

Hartland – The Hartland Land Trust – Annual Forum is scheduled for June 11, 2010. The speaker will be Andy LaBonte from CT DEP who will speak on moose.

Canton – The Canton Land Trust’s Spring newsletter includes information on vernal pools. This information was provided by Jay Kaplan

Barkhamsted – LID work continues.

Colebrook – Travis noted that the Town seems resistant to reviewing town road practices.

7. Next meeting dates:

The Management Plan Update Meeting originally scheduled for June 15, 2010 has been cancelled. This meeting has to be delayed due to conflict with a FRWA special meeting. John Monroe (NPS) will not be available again until the Fall. However, Lacy asked that Committee members keep a running list of ideas, etc. for future discussion.

As a result of the above cancellation, **the regular FRCC meeting will revert back to June 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting will be preceded by a **4:30 p.m. Hogback Canoe Trip**; and a **6:00 p.m. Executive Subcommittee Meeting**.

July 19, 2010 - The regular FRCC full committee meeting will be preceded by a visit to Smith Forge.

August – There may or may not be a full committee meeting in August. However, there may be subcommittee meetings.

In the meantime, the subcommittees will meet as usual.

8. Adjourn: 9:07 p.m.