



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squires Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2009
Squire's Tavern – 100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Edna Travis (Colebrook alt/Secretary), Fred Jones (Hartland Rep/Chair), Eileen Fielding (FRWA alt/Treasurer), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep), Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep/Vice-chair), Liz Lacy (NPS alt/FRCC Director)

Not Present: Barkhamsted, Canton, New Hartford, FRAA

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order by Chair Jones at 7:05 PM.

2. Approval of minutes of July 20, 2009: Approved with the correction of the date July 10 in paragraph 4 and of the spelling of Jim MacBroom's name, in two places.

3. Treasurers' Report: Fielding presented treasurer's report.

4. Old Business - Subcommittee Updates:

Resource Stewardship Subcommittee: Anthony reviewed the projects on the annual work plan:

Vernal Pool Inventory - Anthony reported that he anticipated the Canton vernal pool ID project will commence again as early as January, 2010 with plans for volunteer training.

Invasive Plant Management Project Update - Lacy reported that Betsy Corrigan has almost completed her data inventory, which includes some endangered species along with invasive species. She is in the process of considering strategies and priorities so as to create a workable plan to present to the Committee. The Committee suggested that she be invited to attend a future meeting to provide an update on her progress. Lacy also said that Corrigan is working with the New Hartford Recreation Commission to set a date for a volunteer work day to remove invasive species from Callahan Park. Members of FRCC will be invited to participate as well.

Macroinvertebrates and Water Quality Monitoring - Anthony reported that the macro invertebrates and water quality projects were progressing. He also mentioned that the MDC had been approached about property in Colebrook that is on the market. Given its priorities at this time, the MDC cannot assist.

Squire's Tavern Restoration Project - Lacy reported that she had talked to Richard English (BHS President) who reported that BHS had no need at this time that would be appropriate for the remaining FRCC funding. Lacy suggested that FRCC remove this item from the budget, with the understanding that the project proponents may make another request in the future. The Committee agreed.

Low Impact Development/Road Maintenance Grants – The Committee discussed the FRCC funding set aside for the towns (Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford) who received the DEP/Low Impact Development grants. All agreed that while DEP may have requirements for the towns to conduct a specific type of project, FRCC was supporting projects that could also include road maintenance projects. The towns could submit a proposal to FRCC for up to \$5,000.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail update - Lacy has not yet received the mapping data. Once she receives it, she will set up a working meeting to determine what changes are needed on the map – and trail possibilities on the ground. Representatives of FRAA will participate in this meeting.

FRWA Invoice - Fielding inquired as to her invoice on the status of the various FRWA projects. She commented that the land cover study was in progress as well as the others that Anthony had mentioned earlier. The invoice for \$5,610 was approved by all.

Mountain Road Stream Erosion Project - Lacy reported that there would be a meeting the next Monday with Jim MacBroom and others to talk about the project – and the Yale students involvement.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee:

Newsletter - Lacy reported that the Fall newsletter will highlight the town of Colebrook and Tim Anthony. FRCC's major projects will also be discussed – including invasive plants. The newsletter should be out by the end of October.

Outings and Speakers - Lacy reported that arrangement would be made to have Margaret Miner, from Rivers Alliance, speak to the Committee. Our October meeting will be held jointly with the Lower Farmington Study Committee; in December we will have the annual holiday party, and in January Anthony has agreed to give his presentation on the role of MDC. It was also suggested that Sean Hayden from Northwest Conservation District be invited to talk about his Morgan Brook project. Fielding asked if she could bring guests to some of these talks. Lacy said that guests were always welcome.

Kiosks - Anthony and Youell are working on revisions to the back side of the kiosk at Goodwin/Hogback dam. Miller is finalizing work on the Satan's Kingdom, Riverton, and Greenwoods back sides with Mary Crombie.

Open House - September 17. Suggestions were made to contact various groups and inform them of the event. Lacy plans an email to a large distribution list. She reported that at present she has enough people to help set up, bring food and clean up afterward.

Etiquette package - Jones reported that the subcommittee had decided to recommend a water proof map of the river area, a BPA-free water bottle, and possibly a log book in the future. The Committee agreed and directed Lacy to go forward with the map and order the water bottles.

Local Land Trust Support. The subcommittee recommended that FRCC provide funds to send Aimee Petras of FRWA to the Land Trust Rally in Seattle in October. In addition, the subcommittee recommended Petras' work on the W&S towns land trust outreach project as set forth in the document (and supplement) circulated by Fielding. It is recommended with the understanding that members of the subcommittee are eager to have it to move ahead quickly and want to be kept informed of its progress. Petras will be invited to speak to the full Committee about the project. Stanton moved to approve the funding to FRWA for the W&S towns land trust outreach project for up to \$5000, seconded by Jones. Approved unanimously, with Fielding abstaining.

Executive Subcommittee:

Jones reported that the Executive Committee had met and discussed revising the existing Management Plan. Although the Executive Committee will take the lead, Jones and Lacy stressed that this project would depend on the input of the whole Committee, including the sign off of each entity represented on the Committee. The Executive Committee will meet again on September 29 at 4 to start to discuss the specific revisions that are needed. Lacy noted that a capacity study of the recreational use of the river would be one of the major items to consider. Public notice -- both published notice and notice on the web site -- will be provided both before and at the end of the project. The Fall Newsletter will also mention the project.

Riverton Bridge Grant. Anthony reported that he had driven by the Riverton bridge and observed that the lead paint removal seemed to be going well – that appropriate protective measures were in place. He noted that he had seen an article in the paper seeking volunteers to help with the re-painting.

5. New Business/Other

6. Town Reports:

New Hartford: Nothing new with regard to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Barkhamsted. Discussion of the proposal to build an observation deck and fishing platform on the old bridge abutments. Mysling reported that the DEP had been asked to comment on it. He observed that it was generally felt that it was not a good fishing location, although it is a good spot for an observation deck. It was generally agreed that the project would present an engineering challenge due to the age and condition of the abutments and that parking in that area is a concern.

Next Meeting Dates: September 17 FRCC Open House/Art Exhibit; October 19 - joint meeting with Lower Farmington Study Committee; November 16 (speaker)

Adjourned 8:30 PM.