



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road - Squire's Tavern
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860-379-0282 **www.farmingtonriver.org**

Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2009
Edna Travis's House, 397 Smith Hill Road, Colebrook, CT

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

Not Present: Canton, FRAA, New Hartford

- 1. Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Jones at 6:12 PM.
- 2. Approval of minutes of November 16, 2009 meeting:** Approved with a correction for the spelling of Susan Peterson's name.
- 3. Treasurers' Report:** Fielding presented the Treasurer's Report. There is a balance of \$81,495.70, some of which will be transferred to the Lower Farmington account. The \$150 expense item will be changed to show that a contribution was made to the Barkhamsted Land Trust.
- 4. Old Business - Subcommittee Updates:**

Following up on the subcommittee meetings of the week before, Lacy distributed a list of Probable FRCC Projects - 2010 reflecting the meetings' suggested changes.

Resource Stewardship

There was discussion about how the water quality monitoring should be shown, given that it is agreed that \$15,000 is allocated for the project annually, but is on a staggered basis, with some carried over from year to year. More work is needed to structure the contract so that it can close out at year's end.

Anthony summarized the listed projects and explained the changes from the previous list. There was discussion on a number of items.

Vernal Pools - Finish Canton, with volunteers if someone can be found to coordinate the volunteer effort

Invasive Plant Management project - Betsy Corrigan intends to complete the project, which will include a set of recommendations, by the end of the year. Once we receive her report, we will need to create an action plan and will be drafting a contract for implementation. Discussion of the amount to be spent and decision to allocate \$10000 as a place holder as that time.

Still River project - This is a big new project which will involve a number of phases over a number of years.

The **Sandy Brook and Hartland projects** have been deleted, as it was decided they are more appropriately treated as grants, if the sponsoring entities want to apply for them.

Others have been dropped.

Education and Outreach:

Jones reported on the current status.

Etiquette Package – Jones expects to be able to go to the printer with the waterproof map by Mar. 1.

Video - Paul Rochford, who was responsible for the Lower Farmington video, will do one for us as well. We need to put together a script. Lacy suggested that Nicki might be able to help do that.

Project Champions - Travis expressed a view that each of the projects should have an individual on the Committee who was responsible for it and who will report its status at each meeting. Others agreed that this should be a new goal going forward.

Land Trust Outreach - Jones reported that Aimee Petras of FRWA had attended the last O&E meeting and reported about the Community Forest project (using forest land as an investment strategy) and was hoping that FRCC would be interested in helping conduct workshops primarily through local land trusts on that subject, and on other topics as well, such as easements, a river buffer project, and growing native plants from seed.

Executive:

Next Year's Projects-operating expenditures – Discussion regarding operating expenses tabled.

Management Plan update – Likely to have a one day working retreat in the late spring to accomplish a game plan. Discussion of the recreational carrying capacity study and the need to obtain information about its cost and the need to ensure that the Town's are aware of its importance in their own town plans.

Grants -

Roaring Brook Nature Center Farmington River Exhibit - The Outreach and Education subcommittee generally supports this grant, although there was some concern about its cost. There was however general agreement that it was a very valuable project, that would give the Farmington River Wild and Scenic a good deal of visibility, and that it should be supported. All present were in favor of funding the project. Lacy will follow up with those not present. (After follow up, those not present also were in favor of funding the project.)

Follow Up on Past Grant Expenditures – Discussion regarding making sure past grant recipients had submitted reports and – also report on how FRCC funds assisted their efforts. Lacy to review records and solicit reports from grantees.

5. New Business/Other – The Committee was unable to accept a new work plan given the number of loose ends needing to be figured out. Tabled to next meeting.

6. Town Reports – None.

7. Next Meeting Date: Feb. 8, 2010

Adjourned 7:40 PM