



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, July 19, 2010
Squire’s Tavern, 100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Pre-meeting Site Visit

The regular FRCC meeting was preceded by a site visit to the Richard Smith Forge archeological site in Colebrook with archeologist Marc Banks at 4:30 pm. A subset of committee members (and guests) listed below attended.

Regular FRCC Meeting

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Roger Behrens (new Barkhamsted Alt)*, Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt), Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep/ Secretary), Bill Roberts (Canton Rep/Treasurer), Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted/Rep)**, David Sinish (FRWA Rep), Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep/Vice Chair), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

* New potential Barkhamsted “alternate” - pending approval of Town;

** Change from Barkhamsted “alternate” to “representative” pending approval of Town

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:27 p.m.

Remembrance of Pat Keener – Travis asked for a few minutes to remember Pat Keener who passed away in July. Several people shared stories. Pat loved the Farmington River and played a pivotal role in getting the Upper Farmington River designated as “Wild & Scenic” – as well as led FRCC for many years as chair. She is fondly remembered as “Mother of Wild & Scenic”.

Introduction – Roger Behrens was introduced as the new potential alternate representative for the town of Barkhamsted, pending approval by the selectmen.

2. **Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2010 meeting:** The Minutes were approved with the following corrections:

- p. 4 – Under “Education and Outreach” – “Open House” – No change needed but it should be noted that mention of the Open House and call for submittals did not go out in the FRWA newsletter as previously anticipated.
- p. 4 – Under “Town Reports” – “New Hartford” – In third sentence, change “New Hartford Day” to “Connecticut Trails Day at Jones Mountain.”

3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Roberts and Fielding reported that the balance in the checking account is \$67,321.43 (as of 7-13-10). This includes \$67,000 recently received from NPS. \$22,000 of this will be transferred to the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study account.

4. **Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship

SubCommittee Chair Anthony reviewed the work plan and status of projects as follows:

Invasives Plant Management Project – Betsy Corrigan has been involved in a big knapweed pull at MDC property Greenwoods – East, and MDC has been disposing of bags of plant material collected. Discussed Japanese Stiltgrass brochure to go out, and possible development of “flash cards” that can be used in outreach to others. Corrigan is continuing to survey areas not covered last year. Discussed possible use of goats. Need to

get a cost. Corrigan would like to pull together an early detection team. Fielding mentioned that Jeff Bolton (FRWA) is helping to map areas where listed plant species of concern may overlap with invasive species.

Still River Watershed Study – Bolton is mapping land uses, using Sean Hayden's (NCD) categories.

Vernal Pools – Corrigan surveyed 12 sites in Canton tentatively identified as vernal pools, and ended up discounting a few. She is done with surveying for the season. Tiffany Caisse (intern) is going to help update the landowner database for FRCC. This information should help with landowner information needed for vernal pool survey, too. Santoro mentioned that they would probably be able to share the information that Mike Klemens has compiled for Barkhamsted.

Greenwoods Anglers' Trail – Tiffany is working with FRAA to help identify spurs, areas to cordon off, and areas in need of restoration. She is working on sign development with FRAA and MDC.

Education and Outreach

Lacy reviewed list of projects as SubCommittee Chair Jones was not able to attend meeting.

Newsletter – Need to get newsletter out, and before Open House.

Open House – Lacy requested help in planning the event. She suggested that the exhibit include photos of Pat Keener. Although Keener's family usually attends this event, it was suggested that a special invitation be sent to them this year.

Etiquette Package – Sinish reported that they had revised the draft of the waterproof map.

Outreach to Town Boards – Travis reported that Lacy made a successful presentation in Colebrook which was sponsored by the Conservation Commission. Two of the Selectmen attended. The town is concerned about erosion into Sandy Brook and has apparently been speaking with CT DEP about this situation.

Lacy requested help from FRCC members in signing-up other towns for presentations.

Executive

Grants – Lacy noted that FRCC should probably "call it a day" with regard to grants-making for this year due to funding concerns. However, potential grantees are still welcome to submit proposals for future consideration.

Robinson suggested that it would be helpful to better define the policies that pertain to grant-making decisions. Lacy said that there are guidelines but some determinations are made on an individual basis. However, Lacy said that she can try to make these guidelines clearer on the FRCC website. Roberts suggested that a packet be put together that can be given to applicants. Lacy said that although this information is already on-line, she will put together a packet describing "what we fund" so it is easier to access.

5. New Business/Other:

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study – Lacy reported that we are still awaiting word from MDC with regard to their perspective on the new proposed boundary in Canton. (However, MDC is currently preoccupied with the outcome of the lawsuit that may affect public recreational use of its lands.)

Letter to MDC regarding Potential Closure of Lands to Public Recreation – At the last full FRCC meeting, it was decided that FRCC would not send a letter regarding this issue. However, upon further discussion at the subsequent Resource Stewardship SubCommittee meeting, it was suggested that FRCC reconsider. FRCC discussed and recognizes that closing the MDC lands to public recreation is not a good solution to what amounts to a shortage of liability protection in state laws. As a result, Lacy drafted a letter. The draft letter was discussed and certain changes recommended. It was suggested that State representatives and others be copied on the letter. It needs to be made clear that the letter is being sent on behalf of the non-MDC representative members of FRCC.

6. Town Reports:

Colebrook – previously discussed. (See “Outreach to Town Boards” under “Education and Outreach”)

Barkhamsted – As noted at the beginning of these Minutes, there is a new potential FRCC alternative representative who needs to be approved by the town.

The recent changes to the zoning regulations, and the need to better understand them was reiterated.

Canton – Robinson reported that a portion of the Bristol Farm property adjacent to the Farmington River along Route 44 is now being leased by the tubing company as take-out area.

New Hartford – Murdock said that there will be a meeting on Wednesday with Corrigan to discuss invasive Stiltgrass, and the possible use of flame throwers.

Lacy would like to go with Murdock to meet the new First Selectman, and also discuss a number of issues pertaining to New Hartford. Fielding expressed interest in attending this meeting, too.

Other ...

Stanton voiced concern over real estate signs he had recently seen in New Hartford along the Farmington River.

Several people expressed interest in learning what the excavator is being used for that was recently seen at Main Stream.

It was noted that Main Stream and other entities have been shuttling customers and putting them in at different spots along the Farmington River. Commission members asked about CT DEP’s position on this, and whether Main Stream has a Boating Division permit to put-in at these different locations. Concern was expressed that this activity may be creating new areas of erosion along the river.

7. Next meeting dates: August 16, September 7 Subcommittees meet, September 16 FRCC Open House, October 18, November ??

Lacy to follow-up with John Monroe (NPS – Rivers & Trails Program) to find out if he is available for the proposed November 15th special Management Plan Update meeting.

8. Adjourn: 8:48 p.m.