



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
860-379-0282 www.farmingtonriver.org

Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2010
Squire’s Tavern, 100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Marc Banks (Archeologist – Richard Smith Site/Guest Speaker), Nicki Hall (Hartland 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), Bill Roberts (Canton Rep), Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt), Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep/ Vice Chair), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Presentation: Marc Banks, Archeologist – Richard Smith Site:** Banks provided an update on the Richard Smith Site in Colebrook - 2009 Field Season. The Barkhamsted Historical Society is funding this project with a grant from FRCC. Banks also identified work he would like to do in the 2010 field season. A possible site visit prior to a summer FRCC meeting was discussed.
3. **Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2010 Meeting:** Minutes were approved.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Roberts presented the Treasurer’s Report. As of March 8, 2010, the balance is \$32,913.67. Lacy asked that check numbers and reason for reimbursements be included. Roberts said that he did not have complete information from FRWA at the time he was putting together report. He will need to speak with Fielding to get an update.
5. **Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship

(Lacy filled in for Subcommittee Chair Anthony who was not able to attend meeting.)

Invasives – Lacy said she was waiting to hear from Corrigan with a draft of a task-based contract. In their most recent subcommittee meeting, Resource Stewardship agreed to bump the total funds for the project up to \$22,500. (Note of clarification – In discussing this project, the Subcommittee felt that it might not be realistic for Corrigan to accomplish all project tasks she has identified in one year. Funding increase reflects total amount of work involved, and possible spill-over of project into another year.)

Still River Water Quality Project – Lacy distributed latest copy of the revised work plan. She will also e-mail an electronic copy. Lacy requested that Committee members get back to her soon with input so that she can move forward with the contract.

Water Quality Monitoring – Alisa Phillips-Griggs (FRWA) will be getting a report to us soon.

Macro Invertebrates – Nothing new to report.

Vernal Pools – Corrigan has agreed to work with FRWA on this project.

Concern was expressed that FRWA may need additional help with GIS mapping since existing staff is overloaded by this and other projects that require extensive, and timely mapping. Other potential organizations with GIS mapping capabilities were discussed.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail - Waiting for feedback on signage from Rich Strolis (FRAA). Also discussed cordoning off some areas before Opening Day of the Fishing Season (April 17). Need work day to be planned by next Resource Stewardship meeting (April 5). Lacy will speak with Anthony to see if he can help with plan. Karpeichik will also speak with Strolis.

Mountain Road – Lacy met with NRCS staff in their Tolland Office along with Don Stein (First Selectman, Town of Barkhamsted) and Don Mysling (CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division). They are in the process of putting together a scope of work. The Town will be hiring a consultant.

Education and Outreach

Newsletter – Jones reported that most of the articles and photos for the newsletter have been sent to Mary Crombie.

River Etiquette Package – Jones reported that Mary Crombie has received information on the River Etiquette Package. She needs input, especially on the map. It does not look like the package will be ready for the Opening Day of the Fishing Season. However, it should be ready for the summer. We would rather do a good job than rush it.

Scholarships – Roberts reported that only one person has applied so far. The application period closes in a couple of weeks.

Outreach to Town Boards – Hartland P&Z meets on Tuesday.

Land Trust Outreach – Aimee Petras (FRWA) has been speaking with Barney Adams (Colebrook Land Trust) about workshops. There appears to be more communication among land trusts as to what they would want in the way of workshops. This effort finally seems to be taking off.

DVD – Jones is still working on the script, and will be reviewing it with Hall. Need to find a narrator.

Kiosks – Mary Crombie sent materials off to McCoy for printing of three panels. Jones brought full-size proofs to the meeting that he had just received. He will be reviewing these before giving the “okay” for the final printing. Miller said that her husband may be able to help with the installation.

The Committee spent a few minutes reviewing the panels for: Greenwoods Dam; Satan’s Kingdom; and Riverton. It was suggested that some of the animal species depicted on the panels be confirmed (ie. – barn swallow vs. tree swallow). There was discussion about adding a date to the panels but there was concern that changes at this point could throw off the lay-out. Lacy said she has copies of the panels in her computer files which are dated.

Lacy thanked Miller for all the time that she has spent working on the kiosk backs.

Murdock said she prefers that we not use PVC pipe to frame the panels due to toxics associated with their production, etc. Jones said that he has spent a lot of time trying to use environmentally friendly materials. Jones said he will get cedar for framing.

Executive

Grants – The Hartland Build-Out Analysis proposal was discussed. Since Hartland is proposing to use FRWA as the contactor on this project, concern was expressed again that FRWA’s GIS staff may be overloaded with mapping projects at this time. If use FRWA, need to make sure that mapping needs are prioritized.

Committee could approve funding for Hartland but request quarterly draft work products for review. Stanton thought river corridor should be done first. Peterson commented on the importance of looking at the whole watershed with regard to potential impervious cover and water quality impacts.

Request Town to provide 25% match. Need to go to FRCC guidelines to check requirements on this.

Management Plan Update - Lacy has spoken with John Monroe (NPS Rivers & Trails Program) about facilitating a special evening meeting on Tuesday, **June 15, 2010** to review the management plan. Everyone should take time over the next three months to review the existing management plan. We need to apply some "out of the box" thinking to adapt to current needs.

The Committee discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to oversee review and revision of the management plan because it would be difficult for Lacy to do this in addition to her other work responsibilities. Management plan has been reviewed in the past but has not been modified. A copy of the management plan can be found on the FRCC website.

6. New Business/Other:

Canton Boundary Changes – Joyce Kennedy Raymes (Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook W&S Study – Coordinator) has sent information on the proposed boundary change to Lacy. Lacy will e-mail this to Committee members. Lacy proposes that we vote on the boundary change depicted on the map that will be sent out.

Stanton noted that the boundary change may bring the Nepaug watershed into the picture. MDC operates the reservoir in the Nepaug watershed.

The Committee would like to see a map that includes the existing upper Farmington W&S boundary so that we can compare it with the proposed boundary change. It was decided that voting should be delayed until this map is created and available for review.

Barkhamsted and New Hartford Bridges – Stanton inquired about local bridge replacement plans. He recently saw an article in the "Register Citizen" referencing a public hearing that took place with regard to CT DOT working on the Route 219 and Pleasant Valley bridges.

National Land Trust Rally – Jones noted that the National Land Trust Rally will be in Hartford this October. Is this something that FRCC would want to participate in and have a booth? Stanton will speak with Kevin Case (Land Trust Alliance) and Jones agreed to assist him. This could help with Aimee Petra's (FRCC) work with galvanizing the local land trusts.

7. Town Reports:

New Hartford – Murdock made a presentation to the New Hartford Land Trust on 3/21/10 with Fielding and Sean Hayden (Northwest Conservation District). The presentation was well received by the approximately 40 - 50 people in attendance.

Canton – Bristol Farms just realized that they own a piece of property that fronts the river. Farm will be posting "no trespassing" signs because of liability issues associated with tubers putting in at this location.

8. Next meeting dates: IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

The April 19 and May 17 full Committee meetings are CANCELLED. Instead, the April and May meetings will be combined into ONE full Committee meeting to be held on: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

The Resource Stewardship SubCommittee, and Education and Outreach SubCommittee will meet, as usual, on May 3, 2010.

Adjourned: 9:07 p.m.