



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

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Notes from Resource Stewardship Subcommittee meeting

3/2/21 6:30 PM

(Held Via Zoom)

Attendance: Alison Murdock (NH), Matt Goclowski (DEEP), Laura Hart (FRWA), Lans Perry (Canton), Liz Lacy (NPS), Andrew Petitdemange (NPS), Susan Peterson (DEEP), Mark Swenson (FRAA)

- 1. Invasives Management:** Andrew reported that he has been working with Betsy Corrigan reviewing past work and firming up plans for this year.
- 2. Still River Watershed Assessment:** Nothing new at this time.
- 3. Water Quality Monitoring:** Laura noted that lab availability is still a limiting constraint. With limited incubator availability sampling intervals are being staggered or alternated. Vaccinations are ongoing and it’s hoped that more opportunities for lab utilization at Simsbury’s WPCF by FRWA personnel will follow.
- 4. Land Protection:** Colebrook Land Trust was awarded a DEEP OSWA grant and it is anticipated FRCC might be asked for a grant on this important project involving Sandy Brook etc. Laura had reached out to Fred at Hartland Land Trust and will reach out to others as well. Any grant applications will be welcomed and each project will be objectively analyzed for how it might influence the watershed and resource.
- 5. Stream Crossing Surveys:** Laura reported that 2 interns are returning to FRWA in early Spring to work on water quality monitoring, stream crossing surveys, and potentially other projects. Hart said that 2 other interns have been hired to work in June and July. Stream Crossing surveys are expected to start in April if conditions permit. Mark asked about collection of siltation data. **It was agreed that Laura would try to get a stream crossing survey form to send out with these minutes if possible.** The hope is that we all could be reminded of what specific data is collected and discuss details at a future meeting.
- 6. Upper Watershed Resilience:** Brief discussion of topic. Nothing specific to report.
- 7. West River Road Project:** FRCC at last regular meeting approved an additional \$10,000 grant to Barkhamsted for West River Road Project. Construction can’t start until design and permitting is complete and adequate funds are available. Susan was selected as DEEP representative to administer the STEAP Grant that Barkhamsted was awarded and noted that progress is being made but there are more steps to complete and the CTAG must review paperwork before Barkhamsted will have funds available from the STEAP Grant.
- 8. East River Road:** Nothing new from Barkhamsted or DOT. Mark discussed details of impact that ERR access points currently have on poaching and the roadside and riverbank damage done by overeager anglers. He plans revisions to FRAA’s access guide that may help avoid such problems. Liz urged us all to use the resources presented at last year’s River Access Training. **It was agreed Liz would provide and Laura would send links or more information on designing improved River Access with these minutes.**
- 9. Salt vs. Silt:** We discussed the problem of adverse impacts from deicing agents and sand. Mark, Liz and Susan discussed the siltation and contamination problems caused by sand use and how catch basin sump contents contaminated with leaked automotive fluids often have characteristics of regulated hazardous waste. Susan referred back to the Sno-Pro program links included in the 2/22/21 FRCC regular meeting minutes. Mark and Matt discussed how certain concentrations of salt can actually help fish in certain circumstances.

10. New Hartford Water and Sewer Vote: Alison briefly discussed issues and appealed for more respect for overlay district and a study of impact on the river. Liz and Susan noted that regulations and oversight by State and Federal regulators will continue to apply regardless of vote results.

Adjourned at 7:28PM.

Addenda by Liz that provides wisdom about the mission and focus of the Resource Stewardship Subcommittee:

Resource Stewardship - Lead and cooperatively support actions that directly relate to long-term protection and improvement of the upper Farmington River and its outstandingly remarkable fisheries, recreation, wildlife/habitat, and historic values. Activities include:

- 1) Develop FRCC proposals and review outside proposals and oversee projects having to do with the river's outstandingly remarkable resources (for example, water quality monitoring, riverbank stabilization, habitat restoration, land conservation);
- 2) Review permit applications and help establish conditions when appropriate;
- 3) Review grant applications for resource-related projects and oversee projects funded;
- 4) Develop FRCC policies that address resource protection (i.e., land conservation, water quality);
- 5) Provide technical assistance to partners when appropriate;
- 6) Provide advocacy and funding recommendations to full committee when necessary.

Template for RS subcommittee agendas:

Refer to annual 2020 work plan:

- 1) Invasive Plant Management
- 2) Still River Watershed Assessment
- 3) Water Quality Monitoring
- 4) Land Protection
- 5) Stream Crossing Surveys
- 6) Upper Watershed Resilience
- 7) Others:
 - West River Road Streambank stabilization
 - East River Road – potential one way/discontinuance/run off issues/bank issues