



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squires Tavern
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Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday May 18, 2009
Squires Tavern – 100 East River Road

Present: Fred Jones (Hartland Rep/Vice-chair), Jean Miller (Barkhamsted Rep), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt), Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treasurer), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/ Secretary), Liz Lacy (FRCC Director/NPS Alt), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep)

Not Present: Canton, FRAA

- 1. Call to Order.** Vice Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
- 2. Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2009.** Minutes approved.
- 3. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding presented the Treasurer’s report.
- 4. Old Business:**

Subcommittee Updates:

Resource Stewardship

Project Updates

Invasive Plant Management Project Update. The project is proceeding well. Betsy Corrigan led members of the Committee on a walking tour of invasive plants in the afternoon and Lacy reported she had given Corrigan the contract for her review and signature. Lacy also reported that she has received some additional material from Bill Moorhead that day.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail Update. Anthony reported that the MDC has received Don Mysling’s letter and conceptual plan. There was some question about the role played by the Hogback Commission in reviewing and approving of the project, and Anthony agreed to look into this further.

East River Road. Don Stein, First Selectman of Barkhamsted, and a guest at last month’s meeting, has indicated that he is interested in what steps could be taken to repair this state road and is trying to put together a meeting of interested parties to discuss this further.

Bridges. Lacy reported that the DOT permit is now in place for the Riverton Bridge project. Once Lacy receives a copy she will forward the FRCC grant agreement to Don Stein for his signature. The DOT is planning rehab work at the Pleasant Valley (318) and New Hartford (219) bridges. Public hearings on these DOT projects will be held on May 27.

Mountain Road Stream Erosion Project. Lacy reported that FRCC is helping identify resources to help with this project. Jim McBroom has a group of students who will work on the design work this fall. There was also discussion about a \$700,000 grant from Fish America for a fish restoration project – which this project could be classified as. Lacy will talk to the key players and work towards an application for this grant.

Rock Snot. There was general discussion about this type of algae which represents a threat to the habitat of rivers and which is transported in part by fishermen. While it has not yet been identified in the Farmington River, efforts are continuing to ensure that anglers are aware of it.

Education and Outreach

Project Updates

Scholarships. Jones read a letter from Roberts about the fact that he has identified two good candidates for scholarship grants. It was agreed that the Subcommittee should see both applications and that Lacy would let Roberts know this.

Bench Installation. Anthony reported that he is leaning toward putting the bench in the handicap access area near Church Pool where a concrete pad is already in place. He hopes this will be completed this year but was unable to commit because of the press of other work at MDC.

Kiosks. There was discussion about the back panels of the kiosks. It was decided that this would be tabled until the next meeting of the Subcommittee.

Outings. Lacy reported that the next four monthly meetings would be preceded by group outings. The event before the June meeting will be at 6 PM at the Barkhamsted Lighthouse on East River Road. The speaker will be archaeologist Ken Feder of Central CT State U. The July meeting will be preceded by a trip down the River accompanied by Mike Beauchene who will talk about macroinvertebrates. In August, Jones will host a hike in Hartland which will be followed by a pot luck dinner meeting.

Outreach. The discussion of the etiquette brochure was tabled, to be discussed at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Local Land Use Support. Lacy reported that \$1850 has been moved from Resource Stewardship to Education and Outreach to fund land use support education projects. FRWA has agreed to take the lead with working with the local land trusts.

Executive:

Grants. Update on Riverton Bridge Application. Already covered as part of the Bridges discussion.

Management Plan Update. Lacy reported that the Executive Committee plans to review the Management Plan.

Financial Policies Review. Lacy reported that financial policies, including the role played by FRCC as a fiduciary, will be reviewed as well, in particular, the procedures for documenting the processing of such items as reimbursements.

5. New Business/Other –

Recreational Carrying Capacity Research. – in regard to possible additional tubing activity in Riverton and a proposed paddling race in July, there was general discussion about the possible impact of the two activities and the need to conduct additional research on the carrying capacity of the river. Lacy is looking into what has been conducted elsewhere and what is the current recommended approach.

There was also discussion about the interest by the Town Planner of Canton in photographing a base line of the river in that area. Sinish agreed to contact him and share information.

6. Town Reports:

New Hartford: Update on WWTP project. A meeting with the design consultant has been set for June 2, at 10AM. Peterson reported that she had been told that the DEP has been communicating with EPA with regard to the state-wide phosphorous level issue.

Colebrook. Travis asked about assistance for both the land trusts and property acquisitions. Lacy and Fielding reported that FRWA will head up the land trust efforts in the future. With regard to assistance with property acquisition, Lacy said that in order to be eligible for funding from FRCC, a property must be located in close proximity to and have a direct effect on the River. Lacy reported that the Farmington River Enhancement Grant has been awarded to three towns within the FRCC purview: Colebrook, Barkhamsted and New Hartford. This will be used to fund studies on “low impact development,” among other things. It was agreed that Travis will represent FRCC on the Colebrook committee being set up by Karen Nelson. The Town reps from New Hartford and Barkhamsted were advised that there would also be committees in their towns and asked to consider whether they would serve on them.

Canton: Jones reported on three topics from Robert’s letter:

1. Proposed Expansion of the Bike Trail; 2. An effort by the Town to get funding for an invasive species project; and 3. a ZBA matter concerning a 7 acre property on Powder Mill Road which borders the River and is within the Lower Farmington study area.

It was also pointed out that Canton has been awarded a Farmington River Enhancement Grant to look into dredging the river near the Collinsville Dam. There was discussion about the possible connection with this and the Canton Hydro project.

7. Next Meeting dates: June 15, July 20, August 17. June 8 Resource Stewardship Subcommittee, Outreach by email. (it is expected that everyone on that Subcommittee will have a draft of the etiquette material by June 8)

Adjourned: 8:55 PM