



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, October 18, 2010
Squire’s Tavern, 100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

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

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:05 pm
- 2. Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2010 meeting:** No comments; approved as presented.
- 3. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding gave report as Roberts unable to attend meeting. The balance in the new checking account is \$17,660.62; and the balance in the new Money Market account is \$4,322.17.

The Money Market account listed in the Treasurer’s Report is actually an FRWA account that is used to keep extraneous FRCC-related funds. In this instance, it is being used for memorial donations received for the Pat Keener Scholarship fund. Because of the low balance in the account, the bank is charging a fee. The fee is high and is eroding funds in the account. As a result, FRWA will be looking to move these funds to a new account that does not charge fees.

The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$4,322.17.

Fielding noted that FRWA is also the fiduciary for the Pat Keener memorial sculpture fund. This is a separate account from the scholarship fund, and it is not associated with FRCC. However, FRCC gave a \$1,000 donation towards the sculpture memorial.

4. Old Business:

Resource Stewardship

Anthony reported on Resource Stewardship.

Invasive Plant Management Project – Betsy Corrigan has submitted an update on what she has been working on which satisfies our reporting requirement. Lacy is thinking of “boiling down” Corrigan’s reports and putting them on the FRCC website to let the public know what has been accomplished with this project to date. Committee members agreed that this a good idea. Sinish suggested doing a press release in conjunction with this.

(Aside) **Student Conservation Association (SCA) Intern** – Lacy announced that Tiffany Caisse will be working with FRCC as a SCA intern. Lacy is putting together a work plan for her. Caisse will also be working on a couple of projects for Westfield River Wild & Scenic, and also participating in an interagency federal committee that works with the Wild & Scenic groups around the country.

Water Quality Monitoring – On-going. Macro-invertebrate training recently took place.

Still River Watershed Study – Sean Hayden (NCD) is working with an engineer who will design best management practices (bmps) for the Winsted wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), as well as the drinking water treatment plant. Both bmps will be low tech, and designed to catch stormwater run-off. The bmp at the WWTP would be located near a storm drain in an area where tank trucks come into the facility. The bmp at the drinking water treatment plant would

catch runoff from a parking area that discharges into the river that flows into the water supply reservoir. Steve Trinkaus is the engineer, and he would provide engineering designs as well as construction oversight.

Travis commented that she thought that the bmp recommendations would occur during Phase 2 of this project. Fielding responded that there is supposed to be a Phase 2 but that bmp recommendations can happen in either phase.

The engineering design and construction oversight for the two bmps will cost \$6,000. The combined costs of doing the two bmps together will cost slightly less than having each one done separately. FRWA had planned to do a couple of bmps as part of this project.

After some discussion, committee members agreed that the two proposed bmps are good opportunities, and moving forward with them would also help establish rapport with the Town.

(Aside) Murdock remarked that the new greenway along the Still River is becoming choked with Japanese Knotweed.

Greenwoods Anglers' Trail – This project has not progressed. Signage efforts have fallen through, and maintenance along the trails is needed. FRCC needs to know if someone from the anglers' group is willing to spearhead this project and move forward with it. FRCC would be glad to support this project but it is not a project that FRCC is leading. If no one is able to take charge of this project, then it may be tabled for the time being. Anthony said he would contact Neal Hagstom (CT DEP Inland Fisheries Division) who had originally promoted the idea.

Land Protection – There was discussion with regard to how funds for this project category should be expended. Stanton suggested using the funding to help land trusts purchase riverside properties, especially commercial properties. Sinish will check into the asking price of some commercial riverside properties currently on the market in New Hartford. Committee members expressed concern that realtors and other entities may not recognize the W&S overlay districts within the communities along the river.

(Aside) **Potential Projects for 2011** – Lacy would like to meet with FRWA and go through current projects and identify the next logical steps. She would like to get a list of potential new projects by the end of the year.

Education and Outreach

Lacy reported on Education and Outreach for Jones who was unable to attend meeting.

The last Education and Outreach meeting was cancelled.

Etiquette Package – Lacy passed out a copy of the latest version of the map for committee members to see, and comments were solicited. Peterson noted that access point numbers and road numbers are visually similar, and it might be helpful to do something more to distinguish them from one another. Behrens pointed out that the American Legion State Forest has been expanded and is actually much bigger than depicted on the map. It was suggested that Jeff Bolton (FRWA) be asked to check into this matter. If anyone has additional comments, please let Lacy know.

Newsletter – The next newsletter is being planned for March.

Website – The new etiquette package map will be posted on the website when it is completed. Richard English, our website consultant, has some ideas as to how to make the website more interactive.

Outreach to Local Boards, etc. – The FRWA meeting that Lacy was going to attend was cancelled. It is to be rescheduled.

Open House – The Open House was a wonderful success. Murdock commented that there was not as much artwork as usual. Lacy noted that one of the participating artists has offered to contact additional artists to take part in the Open House next year.

Outreach DVD - The DVD is not moving forward at the present time.

Executive

Travis reported on Executive.

Management Plan Update – Lacy said that the special meeting on the Management Plan Update has been scheduled for Nov. 9, 2010, 5:00 – 8:00 pm. John Monroe of the NPS Rivers and Trails Program will facilitate the session. The meeting venue is yet to be decided. Food and drinks will be provided. Lacy will be working to create an agenda. Key question: What do we want to have when we leave the meeting? For example: What things need to be “put to rest”? What things do not need to be changed? What things do need to be changed? What visual changes (ie. - maps, etc.) are needed?

Joyce Kennedy Raymes (currently NPS Coordinator for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook W&S Study) will be working with Lacy on this, and will also be attending the special meeting. Lacy reminded everyone that it is important to read the Management Plan before attending the meeting. She will also send around a chart to help with reviewing the Management Plan.

Officers for Next Year – 2011 - A slate was discussed and will be presented at the next meeting. If anyone is interested in serving as an officer, please let Lacy know. Election of new officers will take place at the next meeting.

5. New Business/Other

Land Trust Rally – FRCC had offered to pay half of the registration fee for one person from each land trust to attend the rally. Lacy said that she only received two requests. Because not every land trust requested reimbursement and there is still money left over, Aimee Petras (FRWA) asked is it might be possible for FRCC to provide full reimbursement for her registration. Committee members discussed this and decided full reimbursement would be appropriate since Petras is working as the land trust liason.

It was noted that Petras will be going on maternity leave in the near future. Lacy expressed concern about who would continue the land trust work during Petras absence. FRCC is not able to pay FRWA if this work is not being done. Fielding said that she needs to consult with Petras on this point.

Boating Issues – Sinish said that he would like to continue the discussion regarding boating issues and the issue regarding put-in and take-out areas. He expressed concerned that CT DEP has not taken any action since discussion at the August meeting. Peterson said that she had followed up with CT DEP State Parks Division staff as she had said she would. She also reviewed the previous conversation she had had with State Parks staff. CT DEP is in the process of trying to clarify certain permitting issues internally, and then plans to bring commercial outfitters into compliance. Stanton suggested writing a letter to CT DEP and putting FRCC's concerns in writing. Peterson agreed to speak with State Parks Division staff again and identify who within the Agency would be the appropriate recipient of this letter. It was also suggested that perhaps someone from CT DEP who handles these matters could come and speak at a future meeting. Lacy remarked that this is an issue that should also be examined with regard to the Management Plan Update. Concern was expressed that there is not much public access along the river, especially for commercial outfitters. There is a need to create legitimate access points with adequate parking.

Lower Farmington River /Salmon Brook W&S Study - Upper Boundary – Bob Moore (MDC) met with Joyce Kennedy Raymes and Sally Rieger (Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook W&S Study) to discuss changing the Upper Farmington W&S boundary to include an additional short stretch of the river in Canton. Moore indicated that he had no major objections to extending the Upper Boundary down to the mouth of the Nepaug River. Anthony is working on getting this approval in writing. FRCC is supportive of the change but would like to see supportive documentation from MDC. FRCC will write a letter of support.

Stanton moved that FRCC approve extension of the Upper Farmington W&S boundary in Canton, contingent upon written approval of this extension from MDC. The motion passed.

Bench with Commemorative Plaque(s) at Church Pool – Fielding reported that she had been contacted recently by a person asking about the status of a commemorative plaque for a family member on a bench at Church Pool. Anthony has done a lot of prep work with regard to placement of the bench. He will have Carol Youell (MDC) speak with the Town of Barkhamsted to “okay” the installation of the concrete pad to which the bench would be attached. Several commemorative plaques are to be installed on this bench.

6. Town Reports

New Hartford – Murdock reported that they continue to work with Corrigan on Stiltgrass. Corrigan also did an invasives walk with the land trust.

Canton – Canton is beginning the process of re-writing its plan of conservation and development.

Barkhamsted – Santoro reported that work regarding Low Impact Development (under the CT DEP Farmington River Enhancement Grant) is on-going.

7. **Next meeting dates:** Nov.1, 2010 – to be decided if subcommittees will meet; Nov. 9, 2010 – Management Plan Update Special Meeting; Nov. 15, 2010 regular meeting has been rescheduled to Nov. 22, 2010 – Election of Officers; Dec. 6, 2010 – Subcommittee meetings; Dec. 20, 2010 – Holiday Potluck Gathering; Jan. 31, 2011 – This will be the joint Jan./Feb. meeting; Jan. and Feb. subcommittee meetings will take place – first Mondays of the month.

8. **Adjourn:** 8:55 p.m.