



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, August 15, 2011
Squire’s Tavern
100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Tiffany Caisse (SCA/AmeriCorps Apprentice); Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treas.); Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director); Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt/Vice Chair); Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep); David Sinish (FRWA Rep); Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep); Tim Anthony (MDC Rep); Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep)

Pre-meeting Event

The pre-meeting event at the DEEP Property on School Street in Riverton was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Regular FRCC Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Robinson at 7:06 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2011 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following changes:
 - Pg. 3- “Rotundo” was changed to “Rotondo”
3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding presented the Treasurer’s Report. Due to the low balance in the checking account (\$327.68 as of July 12), a reimbursement of \$2,000 was transferred from the Scholarship fund and \$5,000 was transferred in from the Lower W&S Checking Account. The original check sent to the Hartland Land Trust was deemed “lost”, and was voided. A new check of the same amount (\$7,500) was sent. A new ask is being put together for an estimated \$56,500, where \$40,00 would go to FRCC, for August 16 to November 16. Lacy suggested a change in the operating year due to the fact of payments from the Park Service will be received later in the year. This will continue to be discussed.
4. **Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship – Tim Anthony, Subcommittee chair, led the updates on the projects.

Invasives Plant Management Project – Betsy Corrigan and Caisse have been continuing Knapweed pulls at Greenwoods East, there have been large amounts of plants pulled. Corrigan and Caisse have also continued the Japanese Stiltgrass burns at New Hartford Industrial Park. Corrigan would like to start doing outreach to homeowners with Goutweed and also have a weed watching group. There was an emphasis on the importance of volunteers to help with this project. Lacy reported that the grant proposal that Cynthia Boettner submitted is being evaluated and a full proposal is needed. She believes that the outlook is good for getting the money for an outreach coordinator for next season. Murdock mentioned that the New Hartford Conservation Commission will be focusing on invasive plants at their booth at New Hartford Day and will be highlighting the work that FRCC has been doing. This brought up discussion of having other committee members attend their towns fairs and town days to spread word about our projects and resources. Corrigan

will be speaking to John Nolke about the use of his goats for invasive removal around Squire's Tavern.

Vernal Pools – We are anticipating a report coming soon from Betsy Corrigan.

Still River Watershed Study – As of the subcommittee meeting Sean Hayden was finalizing the draft, Fielding brought in a finalized copy of the study and will be sending the study out digitally. The subcommittee discussed the importance of Jim Rollins and his ability to get things done throughout many committees in Winchester. Lacy has been contacting many people about the project. She reported that Hayden and the NWCD have money for the project and may look for a match from FRCC.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail – Anthony reported that signs had been ordered, Caisse reported that signs were completed and she will be picking them up as soon as possible. Anthony will be working on getting sign posts and then he and Caisse will put in the signs.

Mapping – Lacy has been in touch with Jeff Bolton (FRWA), trying to get a meeting with him to discuss maps needed for the Management plan.

Mountain Road Project (Riverton) – Lacy stated that she wrote a letter from the NPS to support more river-friendly fixes to the culvert under the Riverton Inn. She has been in contact with the project managers and engineers and has found out that they plan on putting a stabilizing sleeve around the original culvert. They've also changed the original outflow design to a cascade design for the channel using larger stones and then planting native vegetation above the channel..

Still River Silt Issues – Lacy reported that an anonymous email was sent around about a large amount of sand dumped into the Still River near the Richard Smith site. Originally the sand was thought to have come from the road project near there. Lacy and Travis did a site visit, there were large amounts of sand but it did not seem to come from the road project. Karen Nelson (of) dismissed the email and told DEEP that there was nothing in the river to worry about. Lacy talked with Jerry Rathbun who did a site visit and found that the sand and sediment came from a small impoundment upstream. The small hydroplant dam was being worked on and it seems that they let the silt and sand out from the impoundment. It seems that no one had permits for this. Lacy has been alerting many people about this including the Army Corps and Don Mysling (DEEP). Stanton is following up on these issues. This sparked discussion about what could possibly happen when the dam at Collinsville is worked on.

Education and Outreach – David Sinish, Subcommittee Chair, led updates.

Newsletter – The newsletter article deadline was Friday, August 12. It was reported that they are missing the article from the Anglers. The articles will be sent to Mary (publisher) on Wednesday. Lacy reported that she found a picture of the previous Open House and plans on using that in the newsletter to attract attention to the Open House in October.

Open House – Open House is scheduled for October 6. Food provided will be in pot luck style and organized by Murdock and Santoro. Suggestions for recipes should be sent to them along with signing up for what you should bring. Lacy reported that there are many artists on board and each committee member should print out the sign-up sheet and post them in high traffic areas so more artists and people know about it. There was also some discussion about eventually having the Open House be completely volunteer led. Sinish and his mother will be providing flowers again.

Kiosks – Sinish reported he received the list of kiosks and caretakers from Mario. He sent Lacy a list of tasks and who will do them.

Scholarships – Bill Roberts (Canton Rep) provided the subcommittee with a new scholarship policy. This policy will be reviewed by Sinish and Lacy.

Local Land Trust Support – Lacy brought up Local Land Trust Support to discuss paying Aimee Petras (FRWA) for work done prior to the FRCC decision to stop funding this project. Aimee will send invoice for hours already completed, and she will be doing a workshop in Hartland. Lacy and Fielding discussed changing the contracts so that FRCC would only pay up to \$1,500 for the work done. A vote was taken once this was discussed to approve changes to both Aimee’s contract (lowering amount to \$1,500) and also halving the amount of money to the mapping project contract to \$5,000. Stanton made the motion to approve, Anthony seconded the motion, all approved and Fielding and Sinish (both of FRWA) abstained.

Executive – Cherie Robinson, vice chair, reported due to Travis’ absence.

Management Plan Update – Joyce Kennedy Raymes attended the last meeting. She has been progressing on the Management Plan. She has incorporated the comments provided into the draft. Cherie and Liz are to edit the draft, which Raymes reports will be done by October 6. The next Executive Meeting about this will be on August 29 to check on progress.

Financial Overview – There were no updates to the Finances.

5. **New Business/Other**

Communication Plan – Lacy brought up the materials that she sent out to the committee previously about the communication plan. Discussions followed on several questions: Who are we trying to reach? What are we trying to tell them? What is the most effective ways to reach the audience? Is our time being spent the way it should be? Once this was discussed it was found that most members are comfortable with what we’re talking about and how we should tell people. Elevator speeches were then shared and discussed along with the three most important things that FRCC does.

(The bat chose this point to come out and visit us again. Discussion of labeling the hole that it comes from “the Bat Cave” ensued).

The committee then discussed the things that it is not doing, and what they should be doing. Many brought up marketing and advertising.

Please see attachment for specific notes on the discussion (pending final approval).

6. **Town Reports**

Barkhamsted – Santoro reported that at the New Hartford Historical Society meeting a Riverton native was complaining about Don Stein’s approval to the National Guard training and landing at the Riverton Fairground. Anthony added in that Stein approved the site landing more as National Guard PR and for the NG to do training to put out forest fires in the area.

Canton – Sinish shared information about the First Congregational Church that is located right next to Cherry Brook. They found that erosion has been cutting the banks to within ten feet of the church’s foundation. The Church has been proposing fixes to the Inland Wetlands Commission for the past five meetings, and Sinish reported that they have come to adapt the restoration used in the West River Road restoration.

7. **Next meeting dates:** FRCC: Oct. 17; NO Sept. meeting; Subcommittees (by conference call unless otherwise noted): Sept. 6; FRCC Open House and Art Exhibit: Oct. 6

8. **Adjourn:** 9:35 p.m.