



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 15, 2021 7:00 pm
(Held Via Zoom)

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative, Committee Vice Chair and Roger Behrens, Alternate), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Representative, Committee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), Canton (Lans Perry, Representative, Committee Secretary, RS Subcomm. Chairman), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, Representative), Andrew Petitdemange, Representative, NPS staff), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swenson, Representative).

Absent: Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Representative), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate) New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff).

Guests: Prospective new town representatives Matt Vinick of Canton and Alison Jassen of Colebrook.

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Bowler

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of February 22, 2021 meeting were consensually approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s Report dated 3/8/2021, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$28,992.48 on 2/16/2021. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of that total and was unchanged. On 2/26/21 three transfers totaling \$10,125.00 were made to pay amounts owed to FRWA: \$3,250.00 paid for Administration Expenses 12/2/20-2/28/21; \$3,875.00 paid for Water Quality Monitoring 12/2/20-2/28/21; and, \$3,000.00 paid for Project Assistance 12/2/20-2/28/21. On 3-1-21 a transfer of \$37,500.00 to the checking account of FY2021 NPS CA funds was completed. The checking account ending book balance was \$56,172.84 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund yielded an ending total balance of \$56,367.48. The remaining FY2021 NPS CA budgeted account balance per report was \$112,500.00 on 3/8/2021. Consensually approved.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Bowler had everyone introduce themselves. Hart will assist prospective new town representatives Matt Vinick of Canton and Alison Jassen of Colebrook as needed with each town’s FRCC representative appointment process.

-Resource Stewardship:

- Perry read the minutes of the RS subcommittee meeting held on 3/2/21 which will be distributed, with ancillary documents, to full committee with these minutes.
- Bowler, Swenson, and Aarrestad led a brief discussion of the use of deicing salt versus sand.

-Education and Outreach: - Sinish led discussion of items from 3-1-21 E+O mtg. Quilt still on Covid hold. Swenson and Bastrzycki are still working on monofilament collection kits.

Swenson and Bastrzycki said CT DEEP EnCon Police will meet with stewards and guides soon to improve enforcement by training in strategies to stop river abuse and communicate with police.

Kiosk updating briefly discussed including the possibility of kiosk replacement and added kiosks.

RFP for Messaging Materials and Communications Strategy for the Upper Farmington River has had some responses. Multiple meetings have been held. Sinish to continue his follow up and report.

Sinish and Canton First Selectman Bob Bessel met and discussed items of current and potential cooperation.

Bastrzycki and the Canton River Access Committee meet every two weeks working on access points and details. Some maps and documents are being developed.

5. New Business/Other: Swenson sought permission to use FRCC logo on FRAA led Earth Day Trash Clean-Up Contest poster and it was unanimously endorsed. Petitdemange and Hart led discussion of need for more involvement in river issues and the FRCC by young people to better meet challenges and fulfill mission of committee.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook:** Official Representatives Absent
- **Hartland:** Bowler met with Fred Jones of Hartland Land Trust. Cornell Small Grant Decision due in April.
- **Barkhamsted:** Previously discussed.
- **New Hartford:** Sale of Water and Sewer assets was approved by voters. Another Dollar Store planned on US44 by Marandino Plaza.
- **Canton:** Collinsville Hydro facility still under construction
- **FRWA:** Previously discussed
- **DEEP:** Aarrestad noted Opening Day of 2021 fishing was March 4, 2021 and discussed a variety of pending matters. Tom Tyler of Parks told Aarrestad this afternoon that he has no opening date yet on Satan's Kingdom tubing concessionaire's plans for 2021 season; but, there is an understanding tubing will reopen when safe.
- **MDC:** Randazzo noted flows and snowpack look good. Reservoirs full. Discussed water levels and spotty nature of precipitation where one area is repeatedly drenched and another stays parched even within close proximity.
- **River Steward:** Bastrzycki would like more steward candidates. Applications accepted until this weekend.
- **FRAA:** Swenson had no added items
- **NPS** – Petitdemange discussed concept of tabulating and recording volunteer in park (VIP) workers hours to form basis for possible additional funding. Petitdemange researched the issues involved in FRCC Associate members making motions and their voting rights. He believes Associate members may make motions; but, only core members have voting rights at this time. Changes to voting rights might be possible by making changes to official policy documents.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday April 5, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom

Sub-Committee Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday April 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom

Full Committee: April 19 (Patriot's Day in MA-might need to change), May 17, June 21, and July 19. Zoom

8. Adjourn : 8:28 PM adjournment.