



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2019 7:00 pm
100 East River Road, Barkhamsted, Squire’s Tavern

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, arrived at 7:05PM, and Roger Behrens, Alternate), Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Vice Chair), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Chair), Canton (Lans Perry, Secretary), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, and Matt Goclowski, Alternate), FRWA (David Sinish, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chair by telephone, and Bill Dornbos, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, by telephone), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, FRCC Director), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, RS Subcomm. Chair, arrived at 7:13PM) and Laura Hart, FRWA staff

Absent: FRAA

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02PM by Chair Bowler. Members and Guests Introduced Themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 15, 2019 meeting were consensually approved at 7:07PM.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the treasurer’s report dated 5/16/2019, which was presented by Hart and Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$28,440.54. \$10,736.45 from FRCC checking paid for the phone bill, printing 50 copies of the annual report, W&S planning and website work, FRWA administrative work, River Stewards apparel, Invasive plants removal and rent. The ending total balance was \$17,704.09. The untapped FY19 NPS budgeted account balance continued at \$80,000.00. The report was approved at 7:10PM after discussion of the need to draw added funds from NPS.

4. Subcommittee reports:

- **Executive:**

- **Status of Grants** – Bowler reported that FALPS will request the grant funds for the seed project at Peoples as soon as they have completed the work. Also funding for FALPS re-print of trail maps was agreed to – Lacy to follow up and report on the total amount requested.

- **Draft Budget for 2020** - The draft budget for 2020 was distributed by Lacy. Was discussed with minor changes suggested - moving funds from Land Protection to Kiosks for the update of the maps and info on the kiosk panels, moving \$2,500 from Grants program to the Rec. Users Plan project. The draft budget for a total of \$105,000 was agreed upon at 7:29PM with the understanding that it will be revisited this fall for final vote.

- Bowler discussed possibility of canoe trip for DEEP Betsey Winfield and Phil Trowbridge maybe Riverton to Church pool.

- **Resource/Stewardship: Active Project Updates – Murdock reported:**

- **Hogback and Colebrook status.** Lacy reported on Hogback Commission meeting earlier in the day – which was its first official meeting in its new makeup and elections were held for its officers – Wade Cole (Hartland), Chair; Chris

Johnstone (Colebrook), Vice Chair; Debbie Brydon (Barkhamsted) and Dan Jerram (New Hartford), Co Secretaries. Although invited, Army Corps did not attend, so there were many unanswered questions about the impending project to fix gates at Colebrook Lake Dam – and drawdown of Hogback Reservoir. Concerns remain about the effects and impacts of this drawdown – temperature, flows, and duration. Also no new news from the MDC on its plans to withdraw from Colebrook Lake Dam and other West Branch actions. The Hogback Commission will be trying to meet with the Army Corps to answer some of the questions. The mission of the Hogback Commission is slightly different from FRCC in that it focuses on issues that may impact certain recreational activities allowed on properties of the MDC located on the watersheds of the West Branch Reservoir, Colebrook River Lake, and Greenwoods.

Randazzo reported that the Army Corps needs to fix gates at Colebrook Lake Dam. Secondary to that, MDC wants to divest form Army Corps contract at Colebrook Lake Dam and hydro facility is being dismantled, drop 10 billion gallon (10BG) reserve volume contract while keeping 3-1/2BG at Colebrook and 3BG at Hogback. Discussed Nepaug 10 BG and Barkhamsted is 30BG but Barkhamsted has only one pipe while Nepaug has two so Puddletown pump station (in New Hartford) was built to pump increased flow but never used. Some thought of using pump station for hydropower generation.

- **Colebrook Gravel Mine on Sandy Brook:** New Operating Plan and possible fines on project proponent from DEEP.
- **W River Road:** No new news.
- **E River Road:** Orange cones were observed along the road in places – as the road’s condition gets worse. Still need DEEP and DOT discussions to see if there are any ways to work on this cooperatively. The town still working on limiting trucks, and maybe one-way with bike/ped. 2 way.
- **Invasives Management:** Corrigan continuing work on infestations and planning work days. The hope is to have regular reporting form Corrigan and more information about work days.
- **Still River:** Holabird problems.
- **Land Protection:** No news.
- **107 Main St New Hartford:** Murdock and Bowler to meet with land use agent Mike Lucas – No action yet.
- **Butler Property** – No news on easement language for trail along river.
- **Culverts Surveys** – Question regarding progress – Hart said that work on this project is in process. Committee hoping that there will be a report on what work has been accomplished and what remains to be completed.

- **Education and Outreach:**

- **River Steward Program** – Sinish reported: four assistant stewards hired. Bastrzycki plans to offer training first week (6-1). Lacy read a report from Bastrzycki which requested some funding for one of the volunteers who has been paid a small stipend in the past – the group decided that since it was not budgeted we cannot afford it this year. Also requested funding for storage shed, survey software, and e-tablets. The group suggested that Bastrzycki research other ways to tabulate the survey and buy only two of least expensive e-tablets available. Left for Ed. And Outreach for finalization. The shed remained up in the air for now.
 - **Resource Users Plan** = Giant Project – Still in progress. Draft of survey almost completed.
- **25th “Concert by River Series”** set for area behind New Hartford Town Hall on 5/26/19, 6/30/19, 7/28/19, and 8/25/19. Two Bands booked. Two Dates Open.
- **Outreach Materials** - Working on needed revisions due to added segment of river.
- **Farmington River Quilt** – being shown in East Granby.
- **NHLT Paddle for Preservation Race** – Cancelled for this year.
- **Scholarships** – Behrens stated that he had not received word back from the subcommittee so there were no recommended recipients at the time of the meeting. Committee entrusted subcommittee with the final awards of the scholarships.

6. New Business:

- **Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook W&S** - Approval of \$258 from FRCC for web site hosting.

7. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook:** noted above.
- **Hartland:** HLT Fred Jones thanks
- **Barkhamsted:** Nature Day – Ginny Thanks
- **New Hartford:** Noted above.
- **Canton:** 37 Bridge Street DOT offer to Town at BOS. Bristol Farm easement approved by town.
- **DEEP:** Channel 30 did stocking film at Satan’s Kingdom.
- **FRWA:** CT Mirror Katie Dykes article. Sinish reported Donation of Old Town Canoe offered.
- **MDC:** noted above.
- **NPS:** Lacy discussed Cooperative Agreement modification underway.

- 8. Next Meeting Dates: Sub-committee Education and Outreach - To be advised by email**
Resource and Stewardship – To be advised by email (866-423-6894 code 9815966)
Full Committee: June 17, July 15, August 19

- 9. Adjourn :** 8:58PM adjournment.