



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squires Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
860-379-0282 www.farmingtonriver.org

Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday November 17, 2008
Squires Tavern – 100 East River Road
Pleasant Valley

Present: Pat Keener (New Hartford/Chair), Tim Anthony (MDC), Tom Stanton (Colebrook), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted alt), David Sinish (FRWA), Edna Travis (Colebrook alt./Secretary), Fred Jones (Hartland/Vice-chair), Jean Miller (Barkhamsted), Liz Lacy (FRCC Director/NPS alt.), Mark Lindquist (New Hartford alt.), Bill Roberts (Canton), Rich Strolis (FRAA), Tom Karpeichik (FRAA alt), Aimee Petras (visitor FRWA)

Not Present: CT DEP

Three new FRCC representatives were introduced - Rich Strolis and Tom Karpeichik from the Farmington River Anglers Association (FRAA) and Bill Roberts from Canton.

1. Call to Order. Chair Pat Keener called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2008 meeting: Approved, with the replacement of the description of the report on New Hartford, Town Reports, in section 6 with: “Lacy reported that there has been some erosion at the culvert on Mountain Road. The Town is looking for a way to correct the situation.”

3. Treasurer’s Report: Sinish presented the treasurer’s report. Lacy said that she has asked the treasurer to make changes in future reports so that each one shows only one month and with more detailed descriptions of individual expenditures.

4. Old Business:

Subcommittee Updates:

Resource Stewardship

Invasives Report. Stanton reported that there has been no response from Bill Moorhead to the letter terminating the contract, although it is clear that he has received it. Because there is a continuing need to complete this project, Lacy invited Peter Piccone of DEP’s wildlife division, and the statewide task force on invasive species to join us and speak to us about ways to move forward. He discussed the approach taken by the statewide wildlife management areas, stressing the need to prioritize the invasive species that are of particular interest. In the case of his project, they have focused on canopy trees near rivers. He also talked about the need to identify the various stakeholders/constituents/ landowners whose property is being affected. The Committee indicated that the need at this point was to find someone to help in identifying the species to target and to develop a management plan. Stanton asked about suggestions for best practices, and Keener indicated that she hoped to identify constituent landowners and approach them to offer assistance. Peter suggested a manual written by Todd Mervosh that can be found on the UConn web site. He said that both DEP and the UConn Agricultural Experiment Station could provide advice. It was agreed that Lacy would put together a “job description” and send it to Donna Ellis, the CIPWG Co-Chair and to Peter, who would put it on the web site and see if private foresters and consultants in restorative ecology with expertise in invasive species were interested in working with us on this project.

Workshop for MDC Road Crews and Foresters. Lacy reported that while she and Lisa Niccolai (Smith) of MDC are continuing to look for a site and project for a part II “hands on” workshop, at this point it will most likely not be found until next spring or summer.

Land Trust Workshops. Travis asked about the status of the workshops for land trusts. Lacy reported that she had sent an email to the head of Colebrook's land trust but had not heard back. It was agreed that this would be taken up again in the spring.

Land Use Study Update. Petras reported that although Jeff Bolton had commenced work on this study, he had stopped in June as he was waiting for advice on the change in scope from the 100 foot area to the entire town within the watershed. The Committee had agreed by email vote that we should do this back in the fall and Lacy said that she will follow up with Fielding.

Macroinvertebrate Study Update. Petras provided an update on the macroinvertebrate study. The scope of this project has been expanded and it is going slower than anticipated. Petras also provided an update on the status of the **water quality monitoring** project. There was discussion about the fact that both projects are taking longer than anticipated and that the Committee would like some analysis and next steps as the goal is to be able to take some action on these studies. This would also help with next year's planning. Lacy will talk to Fielding about both.

Next Year's Possible Projects-

Lacy reported that Don Mysling of the DEP had approached her about a possible project to arrest bank erosion in the Greenwoods area, a 400 acre parcel, currently managed by the MDC and the DEP under the auspices of the Hogback Commission. A few committee members had visited the site in the afternoon with the DEP and Carol Youell, the land manager. The area is stocked with pheasant in the fall and is heavily used by FRAA, who had approached him with the idea. Strolis presented the concept, and there was general discussion about its scope and possible use limitations since the fact that the site is owned by the MDC may restrict some of the recreational uses. In general, there was enthusiastic support from the group which thought of it as a partnership, bringing a number of stakeholders together, coordinated by FRCC. It was suggested that it could be called the Anglers Trails and Access Improvement Project. As a next step, this will need approval by the MDC and Lacy will write to Carol Youell describing the project and seeking input.

Lacy reviewed the other possible projects for next year. She provided a preliminary description of each: invasive plants, the macroinvertebrate study, vernal pools, water quality, the land trust workshop, Squire's Tavern (a carryover) the flushing flow study which, it is felt, has by now provided as much information as it can, the Squire's trail project which we will not continue this year, the land use project update, the forestry road maintenance project, the Nepaug project which has proven to be difficult and it is not clear whether it makes sense to invest any more money into it next year. All these possible projects will be considered at a later date by the Resource Stewardship Subcommittee.

Education and Outreach

Memorial Bench. Keener reported that the bench has been ordered and will be stored by the MDC until it can be properly situated. The FRAA will work with Anthony to coordinate the siting.

Kiosks: Keener said that Miller has taken over this project for her and both said that it is progressing well.

Website Improvements. Lacy reported that the website is up and running and is very successful, although it may still need some tweaking. It can be found at www.farmingtonriver.org. Lacy plans to post many documents, including minutes, newsletters, and annual reports, and links to other relevance sites. It was suggested that the MDC could include release information as well. This marks the end of the initial contract. Lacy suggested that some money be included in next year's budget for the web site.

Next Year's Possible Projects: Lacy mentioned the two newsletters, the kiosks, the website, outreach to youth (camps and after school programs) the Camp Jewell grant, river trips, another open house (recommending that more publicity be provided next year), outings with speakers and more closely associated with regular meetings, the Nancy Johnson Scholarship, and the river etiquette project proposed by Sinish. She also mentioned visits to a local board every few months to kindle their interest.

Executive:

Grants: Update on Riverton Bridge applications. Lacy reported that Don Stein, First Selectman of the Town of Barkhamsted, plans to provide the information we requested but that it will take some time to do so. There was discussion about the timing of the project and a suggestion that it would be best, if possible, to embark on it at a time when the river is being less utilized.

Orientation for New Members: Lacy reported that because there a quite a few new members, she plans to hold an orientation session. The four new members who were present Strolis and Karpeichik (FRAA), Travis (Colebrook, alt.), Roberts (Canton, rep.) were asked to say a few words about their backgrounds and interests.

5. New Business/Other –

Next Year’s Work Plan - It was decided to table the discussion of next year’s work plan until the next meeting. .

Election of Officers – The following slate of officers was elected - Chair - Tom Stanton; Vice chair - Fred Jones, Secretary - Edna Travis, Treasurer - FRWA/Sinish, Fielding. Moved by Sinish; seconded by Travis, all in attendance voted in affirmative. (Follow up with Susan Peterson – CT DEP – also affirmative. Unanimous vote.)

6. Town Reports:

New Hartford: Keener reported that the town will, in all likelihood, be revising the plans for the wastewater treatment plan since the existing proposal was rejected by the voters on election day.

Barkhamsted: Lacy reported that the town continues to look for a way to address the culvert on Mountain Road and is working with the DEP, MDC, NPS and others on this.

7. Next Meeting dates: December 15 (Holiday Potluck). Due to the Monday holidays in January and February, these meetings will be combined into one meeting on Tuesday February 3, 2009.

Adjourned: 9:15 PM