



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

Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2013
Squire’s tavern – 100 East River Road
Pleasant Valley, CT

Present: Nick Masi (FRAA Rep), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep), Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt, Treas.), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt, Sec.) Cherie Robinson (Canton Rep, Chair), Susan Peterson (DEEP Rep), Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted Alt), Davis Sinish (FRWA Rep), Liz Lacy (FRCC Director, NPS Rep), Ross Delaney (Colebrook Rep), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep)

Not Present: Hartland

Scholarship Awards Ceremony: The committee met with recipients of the 2013 scholarships to present them. The 2013 Pat Keener scholarship went to Bianca Beland of Barkhamsted. The 2013 Nancy Johnson scholarship went to Nicole Cloud also of Barkhamsted. Nicole’s mom attended to receive her award and Bianca and her parents received Bianca’s award. A press release was planned to announce the scholarship awards.

1) Call to order - Meeting called to order by Chair Robinson at 7:25 PM. (Pre-meeting paddle and picnic was cancelled due to rain and unsafe boating conditions at the W. Br. reservoir.)

2) Approval of minutes of May 20, 2013 meeting:

Approved with the following changes or corrections:

Present: Add Ross Delaney (Colebrook Rep)

Introductions: New Intern’s name is Carl Favata

Treasurer’s Report: add “pending the clearing of checks” after “5/13/13”.

Invasive Plant Program: last line, change the spelling of “form” to “from.”

2013 Budget and Work Plan, 4th paragraph, Addendum “HNew” should read “New”

Town Reports:

Barkhamsted. Third bullet should read “The Barkhamsted Land Trust has been gifted a 20 acre parcel from Dew Road to the entrance to Sterling Engineering on Route 44. Morgan Brook is across Route 44 from the parcel.

Canton should read: Robinson reported that Bristol Farm will be posting no trespassing signs along the riverfront. Pursuant to a dispute over property ownership with DEEP the owners do not want Betsy Corrigan to request permission from DEEP for invasive species removal on the property and will allow her to proceed on those conditions. DOT permission has been obtained by Betsy as DOT has a right of way on the property.

3) Treasurer’s Report: Fielding presented the Treasurer’s Report dated June 17, 2013. She noted that it did not reflect the \$2000 that was distributed to the two scholarship recipients and that when that was deducted there would be only \$22.21 in the scholarship account. Discussion about replenishing that account was tabled until later in the year.

4) Old Business- Subcommittee Updates:

Resource Stewardship:

Anthony reported on the June 4 subcommittee meeting.

Proposed Recreational Trail: Lacy and Fielding participated in a site walk and discussion with a group – including Dan Jerram of New Hartford, Don Stein of Barkhamsted and others – investigating the possibility of a multi-use trail along the river on the east side in the MDC Greenwood area of New Hartford and Barkhamsted. The project raises a number of questions and concerns, including a potential conflict with hunting in the area and its location in a flood plain or in steep ravine areas. According to Fielding and Lacy, who have each been involved in further conversations, the project is in the very early stages. Lacy also reported that a group of people in New Hartford is interested in re-developing the town garage site along the river – which would be part of a larger scope for economic development.

Vernal Pools Survey in Colebrook: Betsy Corrigan has been continuing her vernal pool work in Colebrook – the weather remains a consistent challenge to her completing the survey.

Invasive Plant Management: Betsy Corrigan, Zara Dowling and intern Carl Favata have developed postcards regarding invasive plant species of particular interest that they have sent out to landowners along the river to help identify areas where these plants are invading. Goutweed, Porcelain Berry, Japanese stiltgrass and Lesser Celandine are the plants being targeted because they have not taken a stronghold yet. Intern Peter Le Duc has just begun an internship with us primarily working with Betsy and Zara. Murdock mentioned that there is a great deal of Japanese Knotweed in the dam at Nepaug and suggested that MDC might want to look at it.

Still River: Fielding provided an update on activities. She has talked to Sean Hayden who continues to be enthusiastic about the project but is quite busy with his new role as executive director for Northwest Conservation District. Eileen and other people from FRWA will meet with Scott Eisenlohr, the Winsted wetlands enforcement officer, later in the week. They will be focusing on ways to engage more people in Winsted in the various aspects and potentials of the project, including perhaps meeting with the Town Manager.

Anglers Trail: Anthony has 20 signs ready to go. He reported that he had been contacted by Carl and that they would be arranging a time to install them. Nick Masi and Grady Allen from Up Country may also participate.

Education and Outreach:

Scholarships: Sinish reported that the scholarship awards had been very successful and thanked Behrens for his work. He proposed that the paddle be rescheduled for July 15, before our next regular meeting.

Junior River Rangers: Lacy has continued her work on the booklet and has contacted Linda Goldsmith, a graphic designer, for assistance in getting it to completion. To that end, she distributed and received approval for a proposal to complete the project for \$2000. Lacy will finish her text portion of the work and get it to Goldsmith as soon as possible. Distribution locations include the Austin Hawes campground and Peoples State Forest Nature Museum – formerly known as the Stone Museum.

Kiosks: Lacy is moving forward with ordering new kiosks. She plans to include some updated wording and possibly a different map and photos.

Open House: Sinish reported that the fall Open House will be held on Thursday, October 17. Lacy would like to purchase a folding, standing sign (sandwich board) that could be placed outside Squire's Tavern to advertise events that are open to the public.

Executive:

Management Plan: Joyce Kennedy is working with Mary Crombie to format the plan document. Mary's partner Chip is giving the document a thorough edit. Lacy will check with Joyce as to the status and set up a meeting of the Executive Committee to receive a status report from Joyce.

5) New Business/Other:

Recreation Management Project: Sinish reported that the press release regarding the "No Glass No Trash" campaign had been drafted and sent out and that he had received a phone call from a reporter at the Hartford Courant who plans to write an article. Sinish planned to meet with Carl the next day to discuss further steps, which will include regular press releases. He also distributed some of the laminated posters and cards on the "No Glass No Trash" logo that he has procured. Carl will continue getting these out to local businesses. David indicated that there has already been a great deal of interest in the project. Orvis is planning to distribute trash cans which will bear the logo. The Committee thanked him for his excellent work.

6) Town and Organization Reports:

Barkhamsted – Behrens and Sinish invited everyone to join them in marching in the July 4th parade.
- After inquiring about what looked like significant clearing at the former B&B at the confluence of the Farmington and Sandy Brook (formerly Still River) Lacy has been informed by the Barkhamsted wetlands enforcement officer that any work along the riverfront by the owner was done with permits. Other members of the committee who have also visited the site reported that there had been significant clear-cutting and remained concerned. Lacy will follow up.

Colebrook - Delaney had received a call about a potential problem at a bridge over Sandy Brook Road. He has visited the site and will follow up.

Canton - Robinson reported that Bristol Farm had put up its no trespassing signs along the riverfront. Since then there have been a number of reports of incidents involving river users.

MDC - Anthony reported on recent and anticipated Army Corps releases from the dam at Colebrook Lake due to the large amount of rainfall.

FRWA - Fielding announced that the FRWA had won the Aquarion Water Company 2013 Environmental Champion Award. FRWA's 60th anniversary event will be held on September 22.

NPS - Lacy announced that the Regional Director for the NPS Northeast Region is retiring.

7) Next Meeting Dates:

Full FRCC meeting: July 15, August 19, September 16

Subcommittee meetings: Education and Outreach, July 8, 6:30 PM by phone; September 9, 6:30 PM by phone
Resource Stewardship: July 2, 4:30 PM at Squire's Tavern; Sept. 3 4:30 PM at Squire's Tavern

8) Adjourned 9:30 PM