



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squires Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday April 20, 2009
Squires Tavern – 100 East River Road

Present: Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt), Tom Stanton (Chair/Colebrook Rep), Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treasurer), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep), Nicki Hall (Hartland Alt), Liz Lacy (FRCC Director/NPS Alt), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Bill Roberts (Canton Rep), Fred Jones (Hartland Rep)

Not Present: FRAA

1. Call to Order: Chair Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2009: Minutes approved with changes to the Town Reports section – Colebrook – 2nd line – should read “Peterson said that she thought this had been brought to the attention of the DEP and that there had been some discussion as to whether the DEP had any interest in acquiring the parcel.”

3. Treasurer’s Report: Fielding presented the report noting that FRCC had not yet received additional funds from the NPS. There was discussion and clarification regarding the Scholarship fund. She noted that the AG Edwards account was now under Wachovia due to a bank buyout.

4. Old Business: Subcommittee Updates:

Resource Stewardship –

Invasive Plant Management – Anthony reported that FRCC had received a draft proposal from a potential botanist, Betsy Corrigan, who is known and recommended by reputable colleagues. The Committee approved the basics in the proposal and left the responsibility of the final details in the hands of the RS subcommittee. This includes alerting the contractor to our limit of \$15,000 and signing contract that covers our concerns left over from previous experiences – including time line, scope of work and clause that allows either party to end contract. The contract needs to be open enough to allow for changes in methodology as the work proceeds given the seasonal nature of the invasive plants and the possibility of additional data from other sources. Peterson offered to ask others at DEP about additional details we might want to consider in the contract. Fielding offered that FRWA could help with river route if necessary.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail - Anthony said that the project is in flux right now – we are waiting for Don Mysling’s conceptual plan and letter to MDC that will initiate permission to do the project. There is a site visit and planning session with John Monroe from the NPS Rivers, Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program on June 4. More specifics should come out of that meeting.

Water Quality Monitoring – A great presentation from Alisa Phillips-Griggs of FRWA. She presented the 2008 annual results of the WQM program. The Still River is bringing in higher levels of E Coli bacteria to the main Farmington and we still need to find out the causes. The Subcommittee discussed whether to contact Northwest Conservation District about an investigation – through a “319” grant. FRCC could also fund an investigation that is similar to what DEP funds under 319. Need to focus on more problematic contaminants, and, continue looking at USGS pharmaceuticals testing.

Land Cover Change Analysis – (This has also been referred to as the Corridor Land Use Change study) – Jeff Bolton of FRWA also provided an excellent presentation on the project he has been working on for FRCC to analyze the change in land cover (building versus open land) in the five W&S towns. He showed the attendees at this meeting how he has used aerial photos and Microsoft “Live Search” as well as Google Earth to determine the changes. He has also been using these technologies to work on the **Vernal Pool Study** in Canton. Both projects are still in the works and will have periodic progress reports to the committee.

Education and Outreach:

Newsletter – Lacy stated that the newsletter was still in the works – more help is needed from Committee members to get it completed – Mario agreed to work with Lacy. Jones stated that the newsletter will highlight each one of the towns and an issue and benefits from the W&S designation. Colebrook will be the first town highlighted. Roberts suggested he would do an article on Canton for the next newsletter. Stanton offered some photos of Camp Jewell.

Scholarships – Roberts reported that he had received one application so far. He said the deadline for the Pat Keener scholarship is May 1. He has contacted Regional 7, Granby, Gilbert, and Hartland schools.

Memorial Bench – Anthony reiterated that MDC had received the bench but staff was not readily available to install it. They are still leaning towards installing the bench at the handicap access area where there is already concrete.

Kiosks – Jones reported on his inspection of the kiosks to see what condition they are in this spring. He said that overall they are pretty good, but a couple have received some minor damage – and some need cleaning. The subcommittee will set up a work day to fix and clean kiosks. Anthony stated that the MDC folks were still working on their back panel for Hogsback. Miller said she was still working on a couple of the backs as well.

Outings- Jones stated that at one time FRCC had had activities prior to meetings –and there had been suggestion to return to this practice. Some suggested events include: hike, dam tour, upper reservoir tour, paddle and bug id, and Barkhamsted light house. Lacy to arrange some pre-meeting activities.

Outreach to Youth – Jones discussed outreach – that our efforts would be mostly to youth. He reported that he would be sharing FRCC information at Hartland’s “Green Day for Sharing” on May 1. The committee acknowledged the efforts going on at Camp Jewell with our grant. May 11 at 7 pm. Also noted the grant applied for by Aimee Petras of FRWA (see next section).

Executive:

Grants -

- **Canton School Water Project** - Aimee Petras of FRWA applied for a grant to do a water testing project with Canton students in May. Committee agreed to fund this grant for \$350. Next O/E subcommittee meeting

- **Riverton Bridge application.** Don Stein had filled out application to ConnDOT for doing the work on the bridge.

-**Annual Report** – Distributed to members and Lacy to mail to others who would want copies. Lacy reminded everyone that these should be presented to the select boards and other appointing entities.

6. New Business/Other – Photos were taken of those who wanted them for the website.

7. Town Reports:

New Hartford: Update on WWTP project – Lacy reported that she had received positive feedback from Earl MacInnes in New Hartford regarding FRCC’s offer to collaborate on a planting plan with the town and its consultants. She stated that they just need a date to meet and would get in touch with MacInnes to set that up. Peterson said that George Hicks of DEP has reported that MacGuire had been directed to work with FRCC on the planting plan.

8. Next Meeting dates: May 18, June 15 FRCC - May 4 Exec. Subcommittee, May 5 – Resource Stewardship Subcommittee

Adjourned: 8:48 p.m.