



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**

Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, June 21, 2010
MDC Hogback/Goodwin Dam – West Branch Reservoir, Hartland

Pre-meeting Paddle

The regular FRCC meeting was preceded by a canoe and kayak outing on the West Branch Reservoir. Twelve committee members and guests – a subset of those listed below – met at 4:30 p.m. at the MDC Hogback/Goodwin Dam visitors’ parking area and boat put-in, and enjoyed an hour-long paddle on the reservoir on a beautiful, warm afternoon on the Summer Solstice.

Regular FRCC Meeting

Present: Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt), Fred Jones (Hartland Rep/O&E Chair), Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director), Mark Lindquist (New Hartford Alt), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep/Secretary), Bill Roberts (Canton Rep/Treasurer), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt), David Sinish (FRWA Rep), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

Elise Minichiello and family; Daniel LeDuc and family (Scholarship recipients)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was held in the picnic area at the MDC Hogback/Goodwin Dam overlooking the West Branch Reservoir.
2. **Presentation of 2010 FRCC Scholarship Awards:** Roberts presented the Keener Scholarship Award to Elise Minichiello (Canton), and the Johnson Scholarship Award to Daniel LeDuc (Canton). Jones took photos.
3. **Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2010 meeting:** The Minutes were approved with the following changes:
 - Fielding – p. 2 – Under “Resource Stewardship” – Below “Vernal Pools” – “Klemens” should be spelled with one “m” (not two)
 - Jones - p. 2 – Under “Education and Outreach” – “Etiquette Package” – Change to read: “Jones and Sinish met with Mary Crombie ...”
 - Jones - p. 2 – Under “Education and Outreach” – “Land Trust Outreach” – Change “June 8th” to “June 9th”
 - Travis - p. 3 – Under “Executive” – Miner Lane Detention Basin Repairs – Correct language in first line of second paragraph to read: “The Town would like to retrofit this basin and has requested ...”
 - Travis – p. 4 – Under “Town Reports” – “Colebrook” – Replace existing language with the following: “Travis noted that she continues to work with the town with regard to town road maintenance practices.”
 - Murdock – p. 4 - Under “Town Reports” – “New Hartford” – Change the second line to read: “Both the Highway Crew Foreman, and Zoning and Inland Wetland Enforcement Office have left their positions.”
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Roberts presented the Treasurer’s Report with input from Fielding. The balance in the checking account (as of 6-18-10) is: \$9,928.20. Check No. 867 was for reimbursement to FRAA for “Fish in the Classroom”; Check No. 873 was a voided check. \$950 under “Income” is reimbursement to FRCC for check error reported at 5-11-10 meeting.

Lacy reported that the Executive Committee has not met yet to review FRCC’s fiscal situation.

Noting the funds provided to FRWA for River Rally, Sinish asked Fielding if a report on this year’s River Rally could be provided at a future meeting.

5. Old Business:

Resource Stewardship

(Anthony not able to attend meeting. Lacy led reporting on projects.)

Invasives Plant Management Project – We now have a signed contract with Betsy Corrigan. Corrigan will be attending an upcoming Resource Stewardship meeting. (A request was made that Corrigan also discuss Vernal Pools at that time.)

Still River Watershed Study – FRWA staff met with Sean Hayden (Northwestern Conservation district) and they have set dates for getting into the field, and to start identifying potential BMPs. Hayden and Jeff Bolton have been in communication regarding mapping needs.

(Note - Aside from this project, FRWA is also looking at a stormwater project on the NWCC campus.)

Water Quality Monitoring – On-going.

Land Protection – We have one current project with the Colebrook Land Conservancy.

Vernal Pools – Will look for an update from Corrigan.

Greenwoods Anglers' Trail – Tiffany (intern) was going to start making contacts with regard to cordoning off certain areas.

Mountain Road – There is upcoming meeting.

Education and Outreach

Newsletter – Jones said that he is looking to have the next newsletter out by mid-August – before the FRCC Open House at Squire's Tavern – so that the event can be advertised in the newsletter. He noted that we need to identify a "town" and "person" to highlight in this issue.

Etiquette Package – Jones and Sinish met with Mary Crombie. Sinish provided excellent input on the map. Lacy suggested doing some creative arrangement with text. Will be changing some of the photos. Should be a very informative piece.

Lacy attended a water trails workshop recently and the leader suggested that FRCC call its river map a "water trail". Fielding noted that Rivers Alliance is trying to promote water trails.

Scholarships – Roberts was thanked for his work with regard to the scholarship awards which were presented to the recipients at the beginning of this evening's meeting.

Outreach to Town Boards – Lacy and Travis will hold a meeting in Colebrook on July 6, 2010 on FRCC and Farmington W&S. FRCC is tentatively on FRWA's July 20, 2010 meeting agenda.

Land Trust Outreach – A meeting was held on June 9, 2010 at Squire's Tavern for area land trusts. Tim Abbott (HVA) spoke about the Litchfield Hills Greenprint. There was also a speaker from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. Committee discussed how it is important to build on work developed previously, and to continue to reach out to new people involved with land trusts.

Kiosks – Neil Gilpin helped Jones install panels on kiosks. Jones asked that a thank you card be sent to Gilpin. Jones was also thanked for his work on the kiosks.

Meanwhile, there is no update on the kiosk panel at Hogback Dam. Discussed the possibility of moving the Greenwoods kiosk so that both sides are more accessible.

Open House – Lacy reminded everyone that this year’s Open House will be Thursday, September 16, 2010; 4:30-7:00 p.m. at Squire’s Tavern. Roberts offered to help with clean-up again. Lacy needs help with contacting artists. A suggestion was made to reach out to area high schools and get kids involved. Exhibit forms and posters will be available on FRCC website. FRCC has also put an announcement in the most recent FRWA newsletter. Murdock offered to follow-up on potential new food caterers/venues for the event.

Executive

Grants – No new grants to discuss. Until we are able to clarify our financial situation, we are not encouraging new applications from anyone who needs immediate funding.

Management Plan Update – Lacy asked Committee members if they would like to substitute a regular FRCC evening meeting for a Management Plan Update meeting sometime in the Fall. Monday, November 15, 2010 was proposed as a potential date. The meeting would be approximately 3 hours long.

6. New Business/Other:

Potential Closure of MDC Lands to Recreation – Sinish mentioned MDC’s potential decision to close its lands to public recreation due to a recent lawsuit decision against MDC regarding a mountain biking accident that occurred on their property. Committee members expressed concerns about the implications of this situation. While it was determined that it would not be appropriate for FRCC to become directly involved in this issue, individual members of FRCC may choose to follow-up on their own.

7. Town Reports:

Barkhamsted – A question was raised about a recent zoning decision regarding shared gravel driveways. It would be good to find out how this turned out.

New Hartford – Murdock was impressed by new zoning regulations. LID measures have yet to be added. She mentioned that FRCC was recognized at Connecticut Trails Day at Jones Mountain for its assistance in the protection of Jones Mountain.

A proposed artistic bronze picture frame installation along the Farmington River, in honor of Pat Keener was discussed. Fundraising is currently underway. The Committee agreed that we should provide a donation of \$1,000 towards this project. Sinish moved, and Jones seconded a motion that FRCC donate \$1,000 towards the Pat Keener memorial installation. The motion carried.

8. Next meeting dates:

July 19, 2010 – Field trip to Smith Forge archeological site at 4:30 pm. Regular meeting at 7:00 pm.

August – It was decided that we should meet in August and on our regular day – Monday Aug. 16th.

September – **FRCC Open House Thursday, September 16th**. Art exhibit Sept. 16 – Oct. 18.

Lacy needs to check with John Monroe (NPS) with regard to his availability for the **proposed Management Plan Update meeting in November**.

9. Adjourn: 8:28 pm