



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, January 31, 2011
Squire’s Tavern
100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted Alt), Tiffany Caisse (SCA/AmeriCorps Apprentice), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treasurer), Nicki Hall (Hartland Alt), Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Susan Peterson (CT DEP Rep/Secretary), Paul Pinette (FRAA Rep), Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt/Vice Chair), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep), David Sinish (FRWA Rep), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair) - participated via conference call

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Robinson at 7:08 p.m.
- 2. Approval of Minutes of November 22, 2010 meeting:** The Minutes were approved with the following changes:

- p. 3 - Under Resource Stewardship – Land Protection – In the first paragraph, the statement that “another member of the land trust agreed to do some research on the topic” is incorrect. An FRCC member – Sinish - agreed to do some research.
- p. 5 – Under Town Reports – New Hartford – Strike “overlay corridor” and replace with “the river protection overlay zoning district”

- 3. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding reviewed the Treasurer’s Report which was distributed at the meeting. As of 1-27-11, the new checking account balance is \$8,420.28; the scholarship fund balance is 4,522.21. Fielding noted that some new donations have come into the scholarship fund since the last report.

Fielding referred to the note at the bottom of the Treasurer’s Report, indicating that FRCC has borrowed \$13,100 from the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study account. FRCC will repay this amount after we receive new funds from NPS. It was noted that the funding for FRCC and the Lower Farmington are all under the same Cooperative Agreement with NPS.

- 4. Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship Subcommittee - Anthony led the updates.

At the last subcommittee meeting, the group mostly discussed the amount of funding needed for projects for 2011.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail – Signage was developed and approved. Expect to manufacture signage soon. Signage material was discussed - trying to pick something economical. For the time being, the signage will be very basic (ie. – directional markers, etc.). If this works, then may develop additional signage.

Pinette said FRAA will be able to help with installation of signage.

Water Quality Monitoring – On-going; will continue funding.

Land Protection – Lacy has been trying to figure out another way of handling the “land protection” funding piece. However, for now, this approach works best.

Land protection assistance to Hartland Land Trust for Bassett property was approved.

Sinish provided some insight on riverside parcels in New Hartford. He spoke with all of the real estate agents, and discovered that they were unaware of the river protection overlay zoning district. Sinish also spoke with a lawyer who felt that it would be difficult for these restrictions to slip by the zoning commission. This prompted a discussion of developing a "primer" about the overlay district to educate others. Murdock said that she may bring up the topic of the riverside parcels at the annual New Hartford Land Trust meeting.

Sinish said that, altogether, the parcels are currently worth about \$350k. However, the prices keep changing. Sinish offered to get an update. Lacy said she would like more information on: property owners, prices and listing realtors, so that if the land trust inquires, we will have information.

Invasives Plant Management Project – Betsy Corrigan owes FRCC a report. However, she is working on it.

Still River Watershed Study – Steve Trinkaus has finished engineering plans, and FRWA paid his invoice.

Vernal Pools – Caisse has been drafting property access letters. Murdock asked if volunteers are needed because she knows of a couple people who have expressed interest.

Macroinvertebrate Study – FRCC is carrying over some funds to finish up study. Fielding said that most of data has been analyzed, and a summary needs to be written. Fielding also noted that FRWA no longer has access to CT DEP lab. As a result, FRWA will be buying its own equipment.

Mapping – FRCC has set aside \$10k for 2011, so can use mapping services of Jeff Bolton (FRWA), as necessary.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee - Sinish led the updates.

Newsletter – Articles for upcoming newsletter due Feb. 18th. One article will be on the kiosks.

Website – Caisse is working with Richard English. Part of Caisse's scope of work is to update the FRCC website.

Kiosks – FRCC now has a list of "kiosk-keepers", who will be working on kiosk maintenance, etc.

Open House/Art Show – FRCC will be hosting this event again; Date TBA.

River Etiquette Package – There is a new draft of the waterproof water trail map. Sinish, Lacy and Caisse met recently with Mary Crombie. The map is looking much better, thanks to everyone's input.

Scholarships – Packages have gone out to schools. Bill Roberts has been taking care of this. Last year, FRCC decided to extend the application period. However, we had no new applications within that extended time period. Plan to improve "marketing". Caisse will be assisting with this.

Outings – FRCC pre-meeting outings ... Coming soon - after the snow ...

Facebook - Caisse has set up a Facebook page for FRCC. She asked everyone to take a look at it and provide feedback. Have capacity for "blog" on the website which will link to the Facebook page. Lacy intends to tap everyone to provide a blog entry.

Outreach to Town Boards, etc. – Lacy urged everyone to keep contacting local town boards, commissions and others to set up meetings.

Have also had discussions about how can better publicize FRCC ... Bumper stickers was brought up as a possibility. Also discussed possible name change. This will be a discussion item at the next subcommittee meetings.

DVD – Currently discussing where to go with this ... Possibly segment(s) on YouTube. Santoro suggested "how to" videos which are very popular. Anthony said MDC did a helicopter flyover view of the river as part of the Emergency Action Plan for Goodwin Dam. Anthony will look into it, and see if it might be adaptable.

Memorial Bench - Santoro and Murdock looked at bench to determine how many plaques they thought would be appropriate. Will need to be strict about what plaques say as well as number of plaques on bench. Plaques cannot be too thick if attached to seating-side of bench; or could possibly place on back of bench. Santoro suggested that

perhaps should only do plaque for original request (Randy Pease, original MDC Rep and FRCC founding member.) Fielding suggested that we look into alternative ways of addressing other existing requests. Lacy suggested that FRCC may not be the appropriate avenue for these types of memorials. Caisse suggested one plaque that says bench donated "in memory of", and provide list of names. Fielding is thinking of approaching town(s) for ideas of where other memorials might be placed. It was noted that FRWA had received the requests and donations for these memorials.

Executive Subcommittee - Robinson led the updates with Lacy.

Management Plan Update – Met with Joyce Kennedy Raymes and Lacy gave her packet of material from the retreat, etc. Will start with basic corrections and update to tenses, etc, and go from there. Should have draft to review by this fall. Kennedy Raymes will be working with the Executive Committee, as well as subcommittees, as needed. Also spent time discussing mapping needs, and speaking with Jeff Bolton.

User Capacity Study – Discussed how to get arms around this. Lacy said it will be the first time that a partnership river has undertaken this type of study – so there is great interest on the part of NPS. Want to put together a RFP. Discussed how to finance - \$25k or more – and whether or not to include the Lower Farmington. Need to identify consultants who can do the study. The study would be in the form of recommendations. Lacy said that every Wild & Scenic river is required to conduct a user capacity analysis.

Grants – Lacy reported that FRCC has not received any new applications. However, we agreed to fund Barkhamsted Historical Society's application for \$6,500 for Light house historic site signage and \$5,000 for the Canton Land Trust watershed trail project.

Proposed 2011 Work Plan – A motion was made to approve the proposed 2011 work plan (copy distributed at meeting). All in favor except for one abstention by Eileen Fielding of FRWA.

Other Old Business

River Access Points – Sinish requested further discussion on this topic. Discussed whether this would be more appropriate for the Resource Stewardship or Education and Outreach to handle. Sinish will discuss this further with Lacy. Peterson had provided a CT DEP contact. Travis felt that this should be part of the capacity study (ie. – access management). Sinish had distributed a grid/list prior to meeting, of public/private/commercial entities that access the river as well as entities that control access to state/town/private properties. Need to figure out different jurisdictions, and do more research before can do something with this information. Robinson inquired how we might use this information. Sinish gave examples of how it might help inform a high school class or commercial venture of who they need to contact to permit different activities. Sinish feels that timing is important, and this information is needed sooner than later. He also expressed concern that the capacity study may take awhile to do. With regard to the grid list Sinish provided, it is an outline of the information which he thinks needs to be collected. Lacy said that the Management Plan Update should be done by this Fall. She feels that it is important to tackle this issue through process. Also, there are many underlying relationships that need to be taken into account.

5. New Business/Other

FRAA to Honor Lacy at Annual Banquet – Pinette announced that FRAA was planning to honor Lacy with an award at their annual banquet on March 5th. All were invited to attend.

River Rally – Funding is available to interested FRCC committee members interested in attending River Rally on June 3-6th in Charleston, SC. (Brochure circulated.)

6. Town Reports

Barkhamsted – Santoro and Behrens reported that the Low Impact Development (LID) committee is wrapping up their work. Their first presentation to the public will be February 9th, 7:00 p.m. in the Barkhamsted School cafeteria. Dr. Michael Klemmens, Mike Beauchene and Don Stein will probably be speaking. If approved, the Town will now have LID alternatives with regard to development. The committee will be taking their recommendations to zoning commission for acceptance/approval.

Canton – Sinish reported that the proposal to transfer the existing Collinsville hydropower permit passed the House but not the Senate. It was tagged onto a bill that included another item that likely caused it to fail.

Colebrook – Travis reported on a wind farm proposal and upcoming hearing. Proposed locations are not close to river. In other news, the LID project is moving forward.

Hartland – Hall reported on a cell tower proposal. Proposed location is not near river. She also passed along information from Fred Jones with regard to a land trust program on February 28th on geology. Speaking of Jones – FRCC still needs to fill his spot on the committee. Lacy mentioned that she may need to send an official note to the Town Selectmen to remind them that we need another representative from Hartland.

Town Reports – Lacy sent an e-mail around. She would like to get FRCC information into town reports/websites/etc.

7. **Next meeting dates:** Full Committee meeting March 21 and May 16; NO Full Committee meeting in April; subcommittee meetings will be via conference call.
8. **Adjourn:** 9:07 p.m.