



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, November 19, 2012
Squire’s Tavern
100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep); Dan Bowler (Hartland Rep); Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treasurer); Liz Lacy (NPS Rep/FRCC Director); Nick Masi (FRAA Rep); Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep/Vice Chair); Susan Peterson (CT DEEP Rep/Secretary); Cherie Robinson (Canton Rep/Chair); Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt.); David Sinish (FRWA Rep)

Guests: Alicea Charamut (Farmington Valley TU)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
2. **Open House:** Robinson opened the meeting by expressing how pleased she was with the October 18th Open House – including the turn-out. She thanked everyone who helped to make it such a successful event. Lacy shared a nice newspaper article that appeared in the “New Hartford Independent”.
3. **Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2012 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following changes/corrections/comments:
 - p. 1 – Change date of minutes to: September 17, 2012
 - p. 1 – Under “Old Business” – “Education and Outreach” – “FRCC Sign for Squire’s Tavern” – Lacy commented that the cost of the sign went over the budget limit set. However, this worked out okay because there was enough extra money in the administrative budget to cover it ... and it is such a great sign!
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding referred to the copy of the report provided. As of November 13, the new checking account balance was \$36,339.09 (or will be once an expense check for \$100 clears); and the new scholarship fund balance was \$1,522.21. Expenses for this time period were fairly routine. On the income side, the \$30,000 transfer from NPS has been received. However, outstanding bills totaling approximately \$20,000 are expected. Fielding believes she has “covered all the bases” with regard to signing into the new NPS system. Sinish inquired about the Giordano sign expense. Lacy said this was for the tree sign project.
5. **Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship – Anthony, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates:

The last subcommittee meeting was held by conference call.

2013 Projects – Lacy reviewed a list of potential projects for 2013.

Proposed Stream Crossing Survey – Fielding presented a couple conceptual ideas for 2013, including a stream crossing survey.

Vernal Pools and Invasive Plants Management Projects – Reports due by Betsy Corrigan on both of these projects.

Hartland Build-Out Analysis – Fielding and Lacy are working with Hartland Land Trust to close out the current grant and encourage them to apply for a new grant to complete the additional parts of work that they would like done. FRWA has completed the work under the current grant and will bill HLT.

Invasive Plants Management Project – Lacy said that Hannah Beach will be leaving shortly. A new person – Zara Dowling – had been hired. Sarah (intern) will be working to help Zara and Betsy to organize data.

Education and Outreach – Sinish, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates:

Sinish asked Masi if he received notice of the last subcommittee meeting. Masi said he gets home from work late on Mondays which makes it difficult for him to attend meetings. Lacy said need to discuss dates and times of subcommittee meetings so that members are able to participate.

Open House – Sinish recapped the Open House. He was very pleased with how it turned out. Discussed possibility of having a featured event or person to draw more folks to the next event. Fielding remarked that people are fascinated by history of the area and suggested bringing Ken Feder in as a speaker. Discussed having lecture and/or optional field trip. However, these offerings may not work well with current format of Open House.

Lacy received some feedback from an artist who was concerned that, contrary to submission form information, some artists had more than two pieces in the show. Lacy explained that some artists bring more than two pieces for us to choose from and they offer to let us put the extras up if we need to fill in space. The artist suggested that this be made clear on future submission forms.

Scholarships – Now that Bill Roberts is no longer with FRCC, we need someone else to help with the scholarship program. Sinish asked if anyone would be interested in picking up this piece. It was suggested that Roger Behrens be asked. Murdock indicated that she would be willing to consider this task if Behrens was not interested.

Junior River Rangers – The booklet is going to be edited and may be changed from its current format.

Recreational Use Issue - In retrospect, the tasks and timelines set up may have been a little too aggressive. At this point, Heidi Fitzpatrick has done most of the rules/regulations research, and has spoken with 4 or 5 of the people identified for interviews. However, her semester is coming to an end and she needs to complete the project, and do a Power Point presentation. She should be finishing this within the next couple of weeks. Sinish will be meeting tomorrow with Fitzpatrick's professor to discuss. Sinish said that he is also reviewing Bowler's photos. There is one particular picture that really "says it all" and illustrates the dichotomy. The photo of all the "rules" also stands out. Sinish noted that this is an important project and it is moving forward. Sinish plans to hold another working group meeting to determine "next steps", once he meets with Fitzpatrick's professor.

Executive – Robinson, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates:

Management Plan Update – We are in final stage of update and need to get draft posted on website for public review. There are still some things that need to be changed or fixed. Also, waiting on maps. Lacy hoping to send out another postcard and e-newsletter to announce. She would also like to put some paper copies out at certain locations for people who do not like to read material on the computer. Santoro asked if "approval" need from towns. Lacy said they already had an opportunity to comment but they can also provide input during the public review period. She noted that FRCC members will approve the final version, on behalf of the towns and organizations they represent. Currently shooting for beginning of December to get the document out for public review.

Need to go over design of plan. Although we will bring on a graphic designer to do this piece, Lacy said she will still need a couple of people to help her with this task.

Fielding asked if photos and graphics needed. Lacy said yes but they need to be high resolution. Fielding suggested using the person who took a lot of the photos for the Lower Farmington. She said that she has also heard of someone in Canton who has taken some great wildlife pictures. Lacy said she could send out a note to see if anyone would like to share their artwork for the document. Murdock remarked that it would be nice to use artwork for the cover. Lacy said we would probably be going out to bid for graphic design.

2013 Projects – Lacy reviewed the table of potential 2013 projects in the handout she provided. Committee discussion of projects included the following:

- Vernal Pools - According to Betsy Corrigan, there is still remaining work that needs to be done for this project.

Lacy asked Fielding to fill in cost figures for Still River assessment and culvert survey projects. Fielding passed out a handout that gave a little more detail about both of these projects.

- Still River Assessment – Among other things, Fielding has spoken with Sean Hayden who has a project idea for an existing drainage ditch on the NCCC campus. Lacy suggested adding approx. \$5,000 to the existing project roll-over funds which are currently around \$5,000.

Fielding said that Hayden thinks highly of what Scott Eisenlohr has been doing in Winsted with regard to requiring more stormwater retrofits. Of particular note is the rain garden behind McDonald's. Sinish expressed concern about the rip-rapped bank and dumping of grass clippings.

Aside - Hayden would like to present information about Morgan Brook at an upcoming meeting.

- Culvert/Stream Crossings – FRWA has been pursuing this project in the Massachusetts portion of the watershed, and has begun a similar project in the Lower Farmington in Connecticut. It would be nice to also do this project in the West Branch which Fielding estimates would cost approx. \$3,000. Charamut commented that there would probably be many fewer culverts to survey in the West Branch, as compared to the Lower watershed. (Farmington Valley TU is assisting FRWA with the culvert project in the Lower watershed.)
- Website – Whether we should do more with the website has come up as a question, and it was discussed at an E&O meeting. We can keep updating the website but that may be challenging for FRCC to do. Lacy said that the website is a place people go to for information, and it is a repository. Although, we may want to make the site more user friendly, we do not have a full time website person to tinker with it. So, she suggests leaving the funds allotted for the website at about the same amount. If people go on the website and notice anything that needs changing, Lacy asked that they take notes and share these with her. Fielding felt that more tinkering was needed than major technical changes. Several commented that it would be nice to set things up so that information can be more easily shared or linked.
- Kiosks – Lacy has a sample of a new type of kiosk board. However, she hasn't found any local companies that are currently using it. We need to replace 5 boards. Estimated cost is \$1,000 each.
- Open House – This is a fairly low budget item these days.

Aside – Etiquette package/map project complete and being replaced with new recreation management project. Charamut asked who TU should make check out to so that TU can reimburse for 1/2 of the maps that were printed.

- Organizational Development – Lacy suggested reducing this by \$1,000 because haven't used much of money in the past. Santoro suggested having an instructor come in to teach FRCC members about a particular topic. Sinish felt should keep full amount and use for education. Lacy said she would leave amount at \$2,900.

Lacy said that for 2013, if all goes well, FRCC should receive around \$90,000 from NPS. So, we should be in good shape with regard to our current project list. She does not necessarily recommend adding new projects to our list but we might want to increase funding for some of our existing projects.

Lacy will continue to update the proposed projects list.

Election of Officers – The proposed slate of officers for 2013 is as follows:

Chair – Cherie Robinson
 Vice Chair – Alison Murdock
 Secretary – TBD*

Treasurer – Eileen Fielding

*Secretary term, according to bylaws, is two years. Susan Peterson has served as Secretary for three years - after the committee voted on a one year extension to which she agreed. However, we really need someone else to fill this slot.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the slate of officers proposed. Lacy said she would have to send out the slate to the entire committee for a unanimous vote. As we still have no representative for Colebrook, the committee discussed sending the slate to the First Selectman for their vote.

6. New Business

Recreational Use Issue – Sinish said he has no additional information at this time, other than what was discussed earlier. He will write up minutes from his meeting with Fitzpatrick's professor and circulate them.

7. Town (and Other Committee Member and Guest) Reports:

New Hartford – Nothing to report.

Barkhamsted – Santoro reported that the Conservation Commission has an interest in educating the public about bears because of some recent events that have happened in town.

Hartland – Bowler said that the Hartland Land Trust recently sponsored a good program on coyotes that was well attended. Lacy said that a program on turkeys is coming up.

Canton – Sinish said that the Selectmen have dropped discussion about speed limits behind the dam. There was some discussion about Canton hydro and fish passage.

FRAA – Annual banquet will be held March 2nd at Cornucopia.

Farmington Valley TU - Tag sale has been postponed. Will probably be held Jan 3rd. Will feature used fishing equipment. Also, TU has a paid staff member who is working on project in Salmonkill in Housatonic River Basin with funding from the Housatonic Natural Resource Damage funds.

FRWA - Nothing to add to what reported earlier.

CT DEEP – Peterson reported that there will be public meetings on Phosphorus on Nov. 28 (focus on nonpoint sources) and Dec. 6 (focus on point sources) at CT DEEP offices in Hartford.

NPS – Nothing to report.

8. Next Meeting Dates:

Alison Murdock and Mark Lindquist are willing to host the FRCC holiday gathering again in their home. (Many thanks!) This event will be held on Dec. 17 and preceded by a brief business meeting.

- **Full Committee Meetings:** Jan. 28, 2013 (combined Jan/Feb meeting), March 18 and April 15
- **Subcommittees:**
 - **E&O** – Mon., Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. (first Mondays of the month)
 - **R/S** - Tues., Dec. 4 at 4:00 p.m. (first Tuesdays of the month)

Meetings will be either in person or via conference call, depending on whether there is a presentation or something to review. Assume meeting will be a conference call unless told otherwise.

9. Adjourn: 9:04 p.m.