



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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DRAFT Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, May 20, 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)

Guests: Alisa Phillips-Griggs, FRWA and Carl Favata, FRCC Intern

Not Present: New Hartford, Hartland

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order by Chair Robinson at @ 7:05 PM

2. Introductions: Lacy introduced FRCC’s new intern, Carl Favata, from Westfield State. He will be working this summer. Lacy also thanked Nick Masi for having led an insect and hatches walk at 5:30.

3. Alisa Phillips-Griggs, from FRWA: Alisa presented a report summarizing the results of the FRWA’s 2012 water quality monitoring program in the upper Farmington.

4. Approval of minutes of April 15, 2013 meeting: Approved as written.

5. Treasurer’s Report: Fielding presented the Treasurer’s Report. As of 5/13/13, pending the clearing of checks, there is a balance of \$3,551.18 in the checking account and \$2,022.21 in the scholarship fund.

6. Old Business- Subcommittee Updates:

Resource Stewardship:

Anthony reported on the May 6 subcommittee meeting.

Aton Forest: One of the new items for discussion was the invitation by John Anderson, of Aton Forest, to join his Sandy Brook Conservation Corridor project. There was considerable interest and he will be invited to make a presentation at the July 15 FRCC meeting. He asked also for a \$5000 grant to fund the acquisition of two parcels but has been advised by Lacy that the parcels do not meet our criteria.

Vernal Pools: Betsy Corrigan has been working on identification of additional Colebrook vernal pools.

Invasive Plant Program: Betsy Corrigan has also been moving forward with invasive plant monitoring and control of early detection species. Lacy mentioned that FRCC will be hiring an additional intern who will work primarily with Betsy this summer – Peter LeDuc – a scholarship recipient from last year.

Outreach and Education:

Sinish reported on the most recent meeting. He proposes that the fall Open House be held on Thursday, October 17. In addition to the art show, the subcommittee proposes to include a display of old hand crafted items, including old photographs, in the recently dedicated barn.

Kiosks: Existing kiosks have been cleaned, but 5 new replacements need to be ordered. Lacy to order as soon as next installment of NPS funds is secured.

Junior River Rangers: Lacy has been working on the booklet. Discussion of distribution locations, to include parks, campgrounds, and schools. Also discussion of having brochures available electronically.

Scholarships: Interested committee members planned to meet after the meeting to vote on the final recipients.

Recreational Users Group: Sinish shared the "Please Tell Your Friends No Glass, No Trash" logo which has been selected. A PDF file will be created to be used on a variety of items and from which plastic stickers can be created. Sinish plans to set up another meeting of the Users Group to discuss next steps.

Executive:

Management Plan Update: Robinson brought the committee up to date on the progress of the Management Plan. Mary Crombie has been selected to do the design and her partner Chip Geer will be doing the proofing. Lacy will send out style sheets for review and approval. Lacy and Joyce Kennedy have met with Jeff Bolton of FRWA to finalize the maps.

2013 Budget and Work Plan: Lacy distributed the document entitled FRCC budget and work plan version 5142013 with notes for review and approval. It includes several contracts with FRWA. Lacy reviewed the document with the committee. She pointed out an excess of \$1000 in the Outreach and Education section that would not be needed for the scholarships this year. After discussion of the various projects to which it could be moved, it was decided to move it to line 25, which will be created for Junior River Rangers.

Nothing has been budgeted for grants, but Lacy observed that the funds set aside for Land Protection could be used if an appropriate application is received.

Lacy reported very positively on the use of interns. Fielding suggested that she and Lacy might coordinate on this for maximum effectiveness.

The 2013 budget and work plan was approved unanimously, with Sinish and Fielding abstaining – pending New Hartford and Hartland votes. (Addendum: The votes from Hartland and New Hartford were affirmative – vote unanimous).

Grants: Lacy has received an email to the effect that the Winchester Land Trust project is moving forward. No further requests at present.

7. Town and Organization Reports:

Barkhamsted:

- Behrens reported that the barn at Squire's Tavern was dedicated at a ceremony attended by several FRCC members. The Town held a trash cleanup. Lacy reported she had observed that the owners of the newly renovated B and B along the river in Riverton had cleared an extensive area. She will discuss with the town zoning officer.
- Santoro asked about two areas along Route 44 where he had observed that oil had been dumped. He received several suggestions as to next steps of inquiry.
- 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: 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.

DEEP: Peterson reported that the DEEP is in the process of codifying its water quality policies and guidelines into regulations.

8. Next Meeting Dates: Full FRCC meeting: June 17, July 15, and August 19
Subcommittee meetings: Education and Outreach, June 4, 7:30 by phone, July 2, 7:30 by phone
Resource Stewardship: June 4, 4:30 at Squire's Tavern, July 2, 4:30 at Squire's Tavern

9. Adjourned 9:30 PM