



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

Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting

Monday, September 17, 2012

Squire’s Tavern

100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep); Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted Alt); 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); David Sinish (FRWA Rep)
Guest: Alicea Charamut (Farmington Valley TU)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of August 20, 2012 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following changes/corrections/comments:
 - p. 1 – Under “New Business” – Robinson noted that there are actually 12 owners of Bristol Farms, not 13 owners
 - p. 4 – Under “Recreational Issues” – In fourth paragraph, sentence beginning “Lacy will ask the intern ...” - Change “Lacy” to “Fielding”
 - p. 4 – Under “Town (and Other Committee Member and Guest) Reports” – “Barkhamsted” - Strike wording “in a Town vote” at end of first sentence
3. **Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding reported that FRWA is currently experiencing computer issues and she was not able to produce a formal treasurer’s report. In lieu of this, Fielding provided a verbal report. The balance for the new checking account is currently \$9,542.59. Two checks have been written since the last report – one for phone, and one for tree sign project. There has been no change in the scholarship accounts. Charamut commented that TU will be reimbursing \$500 for half the cost of the maps.

Fielding said that an “ask” has been submitted for the first \$30,000 under the new cooperative agreement. Anthony asked how an “ask” amount is determined. Fielding said it depends on projected needs over the next few months.

4. **Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship - Anthony, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates.

Recreational Use Issue – Anthony said the subcommittee was fully oriented on the recreational use issue regarding tubing operation and associated problems. To be discussed further, later in the meeting.

Hartland Build-Out Analysis – Follow-up with the Hartland Land Trust (HLT) is needed. FRCC to send a note to HLT. Fielding needs to provide Lacy with details about additional work already done and/or which needs to be done by FRWA. Language in new agreement must be clear.

Education and Outreach – Sinish, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates. Subcommittee met on September 10, 2012.

FRCC Sign for Squire’s Tavern – Murdock passed around a draft of sign design. Mark Lindquist is thinking of using white oak. Committee gave “okay” to go ahead and purchase if cost is reasonable - no more than a couple hundred dollars. Oak will go better with historic aspect of building. Still targeting completion date of October 18.

Open House – October 18, 2012. Postcards will be sent out early this week. Jessica (intern) has put together; Goulet will label, “postage” and send to 400 people; Announcement posted in NW CT arts calendar;

Murdock and Santoro will send out reminder regarding food, etc.; Lacy needs to follow-up with Santoro regarding "Facebook"

e-Newsletter – Next one will be mailed on October 11. Postcard includes information for signing up for e-newsletter.

Kiosks – Inventoried replacement panels and will cost out for next year's budget.

Executive – Robinson, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates.

Management Plan Update - Lacy has sent out Joyce Kennedy Raymes' latest version of the updated plan for FRCC committee members to review. Document is not formatted at this point. Please get back to Lacy asap. She will then send out with cover letter to solicit additional comments from heads of FRCC member entities. Following this, draft document will be finalized for public review and comment.

Next Year's Projects – Lacy is trying to determine funding level for 2013 so that she can plan for next year's projects (such as kiosks, etc.) and on-going activities (such as water quality monitoring, invasives, etc.). Lacy may have a potential list of projects for October subcommittee meetings for initial review. Anthony asked if need to "spend down" by end of federal fiscal year. Lacy said "no".

5. New Business/Other

Recreational Use Issue (cont.) - Sinish referenced the last Resource Stewardship subcommittee meeting - with additional people who volunteered to be on this special committee. (See previous meeting minutes.) He noted that rather than just focusing on Satan's Kingdom, the undertaking will be expanded to include the entire 14 mile Wild & Scenic section.

Prior to this evening's meeting, Sinish took Heidi Fitzpatrick (FRWA intern) on a tour of the Wild & Scenic area. End products of Fitzpatrick's internship will be a summary of laws and regulations, and a summary of answers to questions. Questions will be reformatted, and list of people to question will be generated. Fitzpatrick thinks she can deliver items by the end of October.

Additional FRCC discussion of this topic included the following comments:

- It was noted that Fitzpatrick has worked for CT DEEP for the last couple of summers. In addition, her adviser is an avid paddler.
- Lacy said this is really the start of a user capacity study.
- Dan Bowler's efforts to document the issue with on-line photo album he created of tubing activities over this past weekend were recognized. Sinish commented that this was the last "big weekend" for this activity for the year.
- Sinish has spoken with Jeremy Harraden and John Forker and they are both "on board" with FRCC plan. We should put them on our e-mail distribution list.
- Emphasis is on doing a good job quickly so that something will be in place within the next 6 months for the start of the next tubing season.
- Fielding said that in an effort to find out how many people routinely clean-up the river now, Fitzpatrick will be contacting groups such as TU, etc. We want to show how bad the problem is - despite clean-up efforts already underway.
- Sinish commented that this is an exciting but challenging project.
- Behrens noted that a large part of the issue is its controversial aspect.
- Sinish said need basic information about what "the rules" are.
- With regard to capacity study, one of the things we will want to address is "user abuse". This project will be beneficial towards that end.
- Behrens asked if private owners are "held harmless". Robinson said that if they are paid, then this changes things.

Sinish was asked at the Resource Stewardship subcommittee meeting to lead this effort, and he agreed to head up the special committee looking into this issue.

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

New Hartford – Murdock said that the land trust is having an event – “Fabuolus Fall Frolic” – on October 13 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. ‘New Hartford Day’ was yesterday and Murdock spoke with a couple of people about FRCC.

Barkhamsted – Behrens said Madeline McClave called him to let him know that there is a 150 acre parcel in New Hartford and Barkhamsted that she is trying to get TNC to buy.

Canton – Robinson said that in the “Canton Connection” (newsletter) there is a piece about volunteers needed for vacancies – including FRCC. Sinish said the Canton Land Trust is celebrating its 40th anniversary on September 29. Fielding reported that she walked on Canton Land Trust trails and that the signs (that FRCC funded) “work”. Lacy commented that we should have some field trips to sites where we have funded projects.

FRAA – Masi said that regular meetings will be starting up again this Wednesday. He hopes to have more information to report next month. Masi volunteered to assist Alisa Phillips-Griggs (FRWA) with upcoming RBV.

Farmington Valley TU – Charamut reported that a stream crossing assessment is underway in Farmington, Burlington and Simsbury. TU volunteers are identifying culverts that are impeding fish and wildlife passage. Seven to eight volunteers are working with CT DEEP and FRWA on this project. UMASS protocol that was used in Massachusetts portion of Farmington watershed is now being used in Connecticut portion of lower Farmington watershed.

MDC – Logging job by Goodwin Dam has started. One logging firm is cutting trees on both MDC and nearby private land. This is a large job and is mostly focused on storm damaged wood on MDC property. Job also focused on removing ash trees due to Emerald Ash Borer threat. Will be well protected with regard to erosion control, etc. Area will be closed to recreation while logging operation is underway and property has been signed.

River status – Right now, river being managed according to natural flow conditions with some augmentation from CT DEEP Inland Fisheries pools. CT DEEP has two pools reserved solely for augmenting fisheries habitat. Have shut down “riparian” needs due to lack of water since end of August. Historic lows have been recorded throughout the summer - for 100 years of record. MDC has a responsibility to maintain minimum flow in the river. Hence, they are making decisions to cut off “riparian” and pay “riparian” user (ie. – Farmington River Power Company at Rainbow Dam). MDC has not run hydro since August. For anyone interested, Anthony suggests looking at the USGS New Boston gage in Massachusetts which has a long period of record.

FRWA – Not much to report for West Branch. On Lower Farmington, Spoonville Dam is out. Banks are ripped up at the moment because NU is working on its powerline project. The Winchell Smith Dam is “next” on the list. Got landowner’s consent to do some form of fish passage, and currently have a design for a rock ramp. However, the property has changed hands, and Miss Porter’s School now owns the dam. The school hasn’t had a chance to think about what they want to do yet but they are willing to meet with FRWA and discuss. May need to re-think approach. In other news, FRWA is doing a “stream bugs” program at “Winding Trails” this weekend.

CT DEEP – Peterson reported some staff changes at the Agency. In the Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse, Denise Ruzicka is now Director of the Planning & Standards Division; and Cheryl Chase is now Director of the Inland Water Resource Division. Meanwhile, Mike Beauchene has moved on to a supervisory position in the Inland Fisheries Division in the Bureau of Natural Resources.

Peterson mentioned that the New Hartford NPDES permit for the wastewater treatment plant is now out for public comment – as indicated by an e-mail previously sent by Murdock.

The Morgan Brook watershed-based plan has been completed by the Northwest Conservation District under a federal CWA 319 grant administered by CT DEEP. The plan focuses on the recreational water quality impairment of Morgan Brook which is due to bacteria. Peterson hopes that Sean Hayden will be able to make a presentation on the plan at a future FRCC meeting. Peterson said she will send Lacy a link to the plan on the CT DEEP website.

7. **Next meeting dates:** Robinson reviewed the dates listed on the agenda. Lacy said that she may need to contact people by e-mail regarding subcommittees with regard to new committee members' schedules. May need to adjust meeting times.
- **FRCC Open House:** Oct. 18, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
 - **Subcommittee Meetings:**
 - **E&O** – Oct. 9 at 7:00 p.m. by conference call; Nov. 5/6 TBD (discuss times)
 - **RS** – Oct. 9 at 4:00 p.m. by conference call; Nov. 5/6 TBD (discuss times)
8. **Adjourn:** 9:09 p.m.