



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squires Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
860-379-0282 www.farmingtonriver.org

Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2009
Squires Tavern – 100 East River Road

Present: Tom Karpeichik (FRAA alt), Dave Tolli (visitor from Lower Farmington River Study Committee), Liz Lacy (FRCC Director/NPS alt), Bill Roberts (Canton Rep), Jamie Fosburgh (NPS Rep), Mark Lindquist (New Hartford alt), Alison Murdock (possible New Hartford Rep), Eileen Fielding (Treasurer/FRWA alt), Fred Jones (Vice-chair/Hartland Rep), Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Tom Stanton (Chair/Colebrook Rep), Nicki Hall (Hartland alt), Edna Travis (Secretary/Colebrook alt), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep)

Not Present: Barkhamsted

1. Call to Order - Chair Stanton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2008 - Minutes approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: Lacy provided a brief summary of the FRCC budget process for the benefit of new members. She explained the role of FRWA as fiscal agent (through a Cooperative Agreement with the NPS) for the funds that FRCC receives from Congress each year. FRWA keeps track of FRCC's spending and submits reports and requests periodically to the NPS who distributes the funds. Fosburgh advised that Cooperative Agreements, such as the one with FRWA, were being evaluated by the Park Service and that in the coming years there may be a slightly different way of operating. Fielding presented the treasurer's report.

4. Old Business:

Subcommittee Updates:

Resource Stewardship:

New Hartford WWTP - Anthony brought the group up to date on the status of the New Hartford WWTP and FRCC's comments on the Draft EIE. Lacy provided the letter she had received in response. New Hartford voters have now approved the town's expenditures on the project. Lacy reported that it was important to contact the appropriate boards in the town and make the case for a meaningful re-vegetation and screening plan. Peterson discussed the status of the NPDES permit, which is currently on hold until the DEP resolves a state-wide concern on acceptable phosphorous levels to be imposed in permits. Lacy noted that we will want to comment on the draft permit. Fosburgh suggested that that the vegetation plan should be made a condition of the NPDES permit.

Canton Car Wash - Anthony stated that the subcommittee had determined that this project is within the purview of the Lower Farmington group. Fielding reported, however that FWRA had submitted testimony to the town last week. The local Inland Wetlands Commission has approved it, but the Zoning Board has not done so yet.

Farmington River Grant Enhancement Project - Lacy advised that she had written letters of support for the applications of a number of towns under this grant, which will be administered by DEP. The towns seek funds to hire a consultant to assist them in revising their regulations to ensure that they are acting in a way that will have a lower impact on the environment.

Web Site - The subcommittee met with Richard English, the web site developer to consider working on a Google Earth application which has been approved at a cost of \$1200 and is incorporated in the work plan. The subcommittee recommended that FRCC include funding for this project in the annual work plan.

Next Resource Stewardship subcommittee meeting - Monday March 2 at 4 PM.

Education and Outreach

Lacy reported that Committee had met by email on the following:

Newsletter - Lacy reported that she is working on the March edition.

Kiosks - Anthony reported that these are in process.

Web site - Lacy reported that she is very pleased with the web site and ease with which she is able to work with it.

Memorial Bench - In progress, Anthony reported that he is working on ADA compliance. The Anglers Association will work with him on the location when the time comes.

Scholarship - Lacy commented on the need to publicize this more effectively. Bill Roberts has volunteered to head up the scholarship component and his willingness to contribute to this effort is welcomed.

River Etiquette -No developments to report.

Funding for Landowner Education - Fielding advised that FRWA has received a grant from the Rivers Alliance to work with landowners about environmentally conscious lawn management.

Next meeting of the Outreach and Education subcommittee - Tuesday, Feb. 31 at 7 PM.

Executive:

Grants: Riverton Bridge application. No new developments.

New Hartford Montessori School - Lacy reported that she had received a request to fund a collaborative watershed education project that would include students from the Montessori School and from an exchange program in Mexico. She will ask the subcommittee to evaluate it.

Annual Report - Lacy reported that the report will be finalized once she receives the greeting letter from the Past President, Pat Keener. She anticipates finalizing it in March.

5. New Business/Other –

Next year's work plan - The work plan and budget for 2009 were reviewed and minor questions were addressed. By motion made and seconded, the vote was in favor, with Fielding abstaining on behalf of FRWA. As there were no Barkhamsted representatives present, Lacy will contact them to get their approvals as well. (Amendment to minutes – Barkhamsted's Jean Miller voted in the affirmative to accept the year's proposed work plan and budget.)

FRCC Rep Photos - Lacy said that instead of a group photo, individual photos would be taken of each member at the next meeting or that members could send her by email a photo and information they would like about themselves for posting on the web site.

Signs - Stanton inquired as to the need to replacement of a missing sign on Route 44. Lacy will contact the highway department and have it replaced.

Collinsville Hydro Proposal - Karpeichik asked, on behalf of the Anglers Association, whether FRCC was planning to take a position on the proposal to reactivate the hydroelectric project in Canton. Lacy indicated that this was primarily a concern for the Lower Farmington Group, and other members of FRCC, particularly Fielding and Anthony, described the various ongoing efforts by their groups and others to address the shared environmental and fishing concerns raised in the various permitting processes, including the FERC process. Fielding will send Karpeichik the comments and other materials that have been submitted.

6. Town Reports:

New Hartford: WWTP discussed earlier in connection with the Resource Stewardship Committee report.

7. Next Meeting dates: March 16, April 20, May 18.

Adjourned: 8:32 PM