



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, August 16, 2010
Squire’s Tavern, 100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Nicki Hall (Hartland Alt), Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep/ Secretary), Paul Pinette (FRAA rep), Dick Reynolds (Guest – former FRCC Chair & FRAA rep), Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep)*, David Sinish (FRWA Rep), Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep/Vice Chair), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

* Change from Barkhamsted “alternate” to “representative” pending approval of Town

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:07 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2009 meeting:** A motion was made and seconded to table the Meeting Minutes pending clarification of discussion relating to outfitter canoe rentals and off-loading of customers.

Also, on p. 3, under “Resource Stewardship” – “Greenwoods Anglers’ Trail” - The summary needs to be corrected to read that: “Tiffany is working with FRAA ... “ (not MDC)

3. **Treasurer’s Report:** There was no treasurer’s report as neither Roberts nor Fielding were at the meeting.
4. **Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship

Invasives Plant Management Project – Betsy Corrigan and Tiffany Caisse have organized multiple volunteer visits to Greenwoods – East to remove invasives. MDC has supplied dumpsters for disposal of invasives. Stanton reported that he has seen press coverage. Corrigan worked with MDC to identify and remove invasive colonies (ie. – loosestrife, knapweed, phragmites, etc.) in Hogback boat ramp area. Some of these invasives may have been brought in with fill for the boat launch. Lacy noted the NPS “Partnership River News” (Summer 2010) has an article that includes information on FRCC’s invasives project.

Travis reported that Corrigan has gotten enthusiastic about the possibility of using goats to control invasives. Travis is assisting Corrigan and has called Earth Tones (nursery/landscaper that supplies goats) to discuss. Travis learned that goats are good for controlling multiflora rose, and that goat digestion process curtails seed germination in their manure. Goats are generally put on-site for approximately one week. Will have Earth Tones come and speak with us at future meeting. Need to figure out cost, etc.

Invasives Management, cont. – Japanese Stiltgrass Brochure – The brochure is to be mailed out tomorrow.

Still River Watershed Study – Jeff Bolton (FRWA) sent out draft information regarding “areas of potential concern” he had identified, and Lacy distributed this material to the Resource Stewardship Subcommittee members. Stanton remarked that he found the information “eye opening” and expressed concern about what he saw in some of the aerial photos. Many of the commercial and industrial operations along the Still River are “out of sight” and not visible from the adjacent roadways. Peterson mentioned that CT DEP regulates the municipal wastewater treatment plant, and is working to bring gravel mining operations into compliance with regard to water diversion permits. Peterson suggested getting more information on the latter from the CT

DEP Inland Water Resources Division. Bolton is scheduled to come to the Sept. 7th Resource Stewardship SubCommittee meeting and this would be an opportunity to discuss the information further.

Greenwoods Anglers' Trail – Tiffany Caisse has identified spurs, and has submitted suggestions for potential signage but nothing has been decided yet. Anthony asked who would produce the signs. Lacy said that FRCC has funding for signs. Don Mysling sent photos of areas within Greenwoods that are not being kept up.

Sandy Brook Natural Area Preserve - Management Plan – Peterson asked about the status of this project. CT DEP Bureau of Natural Resources staff had asked her about it as they had not had any recent communications from the Colebrook Land Conservancy (CLC). Lacy said that FRCC had agreed to fund the project and the grant contract had been signed. Lacy said that CLC – or their consultant – should be in touch with CT DEP soon.

Education and Outreach

Lacy reported on Education and Outreach since Jones was unable to attend meeting.

Newsletter – The newsletter is in the final stages of being completed. Lacy is hoping that it will be done by tomorrow, and out to the printer in a few days. She is hoping to have it printed by Aug. 30th. Sinish asked if we distribute the newsletter electronically. Lacy said that it would be good to ask people if they prefer to receive an electronic rather than paper copy of the newsletter. The newsletters are posted on the FRCC website.

Website – Lacy asked Committee members to look at the FRCC website from time to time and provide her with input and suggestions.

Etiquette Package – Lacy circulated a draft copy of the waterproof map for the Committee to see.

Land Trust Outreach – Aimee Petras (FRWA) is to be invited to the Sept. 7th Outreach and Education SubCommittee meeting.

Open House – Lacy reminded everyone that the Open House will be on Thurs., Sept. 16th from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. She also reported that:

- “Travelling Trout” will be providing music;
- She has been contacting artists. If anyone would like to help her with phone calls, please let her know;
- Alison Murdock is helping with food arrangements;
- A lot of people have been lined-up to help with set-up;
- She is trying to pull together photos of Pat Keener.

Executive

Grants – Lacy reported that she is trying to systematically track down (older) grants that have not been closed out yet. Stanton offered to check in with his Camp Jewell contacts and invite them to our October meeting.

5. New Business/Other

Main Stream Canoe & Kayak – As a follow-up to discussion at the July 19th meeting, Peterson reported on conversations she had with other CT DEP staff in the Boating Division, Inland Fisheries Division and State Parks Division regarding concerns expressed about where Main Stream puts-in and takes-out clients along the Farmington River. Peterson said that the current policy is that it is okay for a commercial outfitter to drop off/pick up clients at State boat launches as long as that is all they are doing. Commercial outfitters cannot provide other services (ie. – canoe/kayak instruction, etc.) at these locations without a permit. Commercial outfitters need to get a special use permit from CT DEP if they are putting-in or taking-out on CT DEP property where there is not an official State boat launch. However, there are some “gray areas” with regard to these policies, and CT DEP staff is in the process of trying to clarify these issues, and bring commercial

outfitters into compliance. Peterson also noted that CT DEP does not have any regulatory authority over a commercial outfitter putting-in or taking-out on private property along the river.

Committee members agreed that this concern is something that might be appropriate to explore further within the context of a river use management /carrying capacity plan which FRCC has previously discussed developing.

Lacy said she would keep a log of complaints received.

Peterson said she would speak with State Parks Division staff again, as a follow-up to discussion at this evening's meeting.

Unexpected Visitor – Committee members wished to note the surprise appearance of a large brown bat at this point in the meeting. It swooped around the room and into the next. Committee members were unsuccessful in shoo-ing it outside. It flew back into the meeting room, and settled into a small crack in the wall for the rest of the meeting. It was unclear if the bat was trying to make a statement with regard to the Upper Farmington Wild & Scenic area and/or the meeting proceedings ... or if we were all just a little “batty” ourselves by this hour of the evening.



Next Year Projects – Lacy said that now it the time to start thinking of projects for next year.

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study – Upper Boundary – Joyce Kennedy Raymes, NPS Coordinator for the Lower Farmington/Salmon W&S Study has spoken with MDC's Jim Randazzo. She is waiting to hear back from MDC management with regard to their position about adding a small portion of Canton (from the mouth of the Nepaug River north) to the Upper Farmington W&S area, rather than including this short segment in the proposed Lower Farmington W&S area.

MDC Lands & Recreation - The “town meeting” held by MDC regarding recreational use of their lands and legal issues was attended by approximately 800 people. State representatives in attendance said that they intend to consider this issue in the next legislative session.

Student Conservation Association – Lacy has received an offer from the Washington NPS office for her to host a Student Conservation Association (SCA) – Americorps intern/apprentice for ten months this fall through next year. If approved, NPS would sponsor a 10 month position which includes various benefits. Lacy hopes that the position can be filled with someone who lives locally. However, the search can be broadened to a larger geographic area, if need be. If FRCC has difficulty finding someone, then SCA can assist with finding an intern. If granted, Lacy is hoping to have the position filled by December.

6. Town Reports

Barkhamsted – The Town Committee is working on its CT DEP funded Low Impact Development (LID) grant and is reviewing local policies and making recommendations. The Committee will recommend that individual boards and commissions make changes.

Colebrook – The Town of Colebrook is also working on its CT DEP funded LID grant project.

Canton – The Town Planner has contracted with an intern to photograph all river front properties in Canton. So far, about 5 out of 7 river miles have been covered. Sinish has been assisting with the project. FRCC may want to consider doing similar “baseline” photography along the Upper Farmington.

7. **Next meeting dates:** Sept. 16, 2010 (Open House); Oct. 18, 2010; The management plan review meeting may be scheduled for Nov. 9, 2010.

8. **Adjourn:** 8:35 p.m.