



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, June 18, 2012
Picnic Area Overlooking MDC Hogback Reservoir, Colebrook

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

Guests: Alicea Charamut (Farmington Valley TU); Bianca Beland & family (Barkhamsted); Peter LeDuc & family (Canton) ... and Ortiz Murdock-Lindquist, the huge and amiable Newfy!

Pre-Meeting Outing: Prior to the meeting and scholarship ceremony, a small group of Committee members enjoyed an hour long paddle on Hogback Reservoir.

Scholarship Ceremony: This year’s scholarship recipients and their families joined us for a ceremony prior to the business meeting to receive their awards. The two scholarships were presented by Bill Roberts as follows:

- Pat Keener Scholarship – Bianca Beland (Barkhamsted)
- Nancy Johnson Scholarship – Peter LeDuc (Canton)

Both recipients recently graduated from high school and were asked to say a few words about their plans and interests. Beland will be attending University of Maine at Orono and is planning to major in Forestry. LeDuc will be attending SUNY at Syracuse and has not decided on a major yet but the school’s specific focus is forestry and environmental sciences. Following this, Beland and LeDuc and their families left, and the business meeting was called to order.

1. Call to Order: Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2012 meeting: The minutes were approved with the following changes:

- p. 1 – Under “Treasurer’s Report” – Second to last sentence – Strike the first reference to “funds”
- p. 4 – Under “Town (and Other Committee Member and Guest) Reports – “MDC” – Second to last sentence – Capitalize the “t” in “the” at the beginning of the sentence

3. Treasurer’s Report: Fielding presented the report, referring to the copy she provided. As of June 12, 2012, the new checking account balance was \$12,120.57; and the new scholarship fund balance was \$2,522.21. Two errors in the report were noted: Under “Expenses”, “Total Expenses” should be \$4,600, not \$3,600; Under “Account Balances”, the “New Checking Account Balance” should be \$12,120.57, not \$13,120.57. Although not indicated in this report, Fielding said that now that the scholarships have been awarded, the checking account will be now be \$1,000 less –for award of Nancy Johnson Scholarship; and the scholarship fund will be \$1,000 less – for award of the Pat Keener Scholarship. This is because the two scholarships come out of different accounts.

4. Old Business – Subcommittee Reports:

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

Invasive Plants Management Project – Betsy Corrigan has been working on getting permissions from MDC for volunteer releases and access to work on MDC property. MDC will be doing a knapweed pull tomorrow. Lacy said that we now have an invasives page on our website. Hannah Beach, the new part-time invasives coordinator, will be learning how to do the updates. Corrigan and Beach have a meeting scheduled with CT DOT to discuss the possibility of working with road crews to address invasives issues. The person they have spoken with seemed receptive to discussing the matter. The goats have been put out at different locations.

Still River – Fielding reported that a new bioswale at Crystal Lake at the Winchester drinking water treatment plant is currently being installed by the Northwest Conservation District (NCD). Lacy said she had circulated project photos by e-mail. NCD also installed a bioswale at the Winchester wastewater treatment plant on the previous Monday. Photos of this project have yet to be circulated. Travis said that it would be good to do signage at the project sites.

Fielding said that both FRWA and Northwest Community College were selected to receive (federal CWA 319 NPS) Watershed Assistance Small Grants through Rivers Alliance for projects in the Still River basin.

Water Quality – On-going. No news of Didymo.

Vernal Pools – Things quiet are right now. Waiting for report.

Greenwoods Anglers Trail – FRAA recently did clean-up. Anthony has not had a chance to go down there yet.

Lacy said that a road has been created between the new B&B and Greenwoods. Masi said that there is a road that has always been there. Is it the same road or a new one? Masi said he will take a look the next time he is there.

Lacy said that she has heard that there has been a lot of traffic at Greenwoods recently. Anthony said that he has heard the same thing. Lacy is concerned that the situation doesn't turn into another like the one at Nepaug State Forest. Activities with motorized off road vehicles and people gathering after dark has been very destructive to the resources there. Anthony concurred that it is not appropriate for the public to be on MDC property after dark.

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

River Etiquette Package – Water Trail Maps – An additional 2700 maps have been reprinted and are being distributed. FRCC has put out about 500, so far.

Partnership River Reports – Fielding has received these reports from the NPS and can distribute them.

e-Newsletter – Putting out a monthly edition was more complicated than previously thought. It was decided to publish quarterly, instead.

Kiosks – Sinish and Santoro will be responsible for the kiosks. Several of them are in bad shape – delaminating, mildew, etc. – including the ones at: Riverton and Greenwoods. Lacy said that an assessment of which need to be replaced should be done so that they can move forward with ordering the ones needed. Most of the kiosks are 8-10 years old which is about the end of their life span.

Scholarships – Sinish said that the presentation of the awards this evening went nicely. He thanked Roberts for his work in shepherding the scholarship process.

Executive – Robinson, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates:

Management Plan Update – At the last subcommittee meeting, members reviewed maps. Lacy suggested that at the July 16 full committee meeting, we do a page by page review of the draft management plan instead of having a regular meeting. We will plan to start the meeting early at 5:30 p.m. The document will be projected on a screen so that everyone will be able to see

it. Then we will be able to move forward to a final draft, get it out to constituents for review, and have it ready for the Open House on October 18. Joyce Kennedy Raymes will have the latest version of the document for review at the July 16 meeting.

Interns and Mileage – Lacy reported on:

Internship positions:

- Jessica Applin – will be working on Junior River Ranger booklet; \$500 stipend has been budgeted for her position;
- Katie Donovan – will be helping Betsy Corrigan in the field, working with Hannah Beach, and doing some outreach; \$1,000 stipend has been budgeted for her position;

Mileage: Katie is most concerned about mileage, so her stipend will mostly cover this. The same with Jessica.

Sinish asked and Lacy confirmed that mileage will be paid at the IRS rate of \$0.55/mile

5. New Business/Other

Committee Member Change – This is Bill Roberts last meeting whose term ends in August. Robinson will become the Canton representative, so we will be needing a new Canton alternate representative. Roberts was thanked for all of his help while he served on FRCC, especially with regard to scholarships, contracts, etc.

DPW Spraying – Sinish said that Canton DPW has been considering spraying herbicides around traffic signs, etc. and the Canton Conservation Commission has expressed concern. He asked if other towns are concerned about this practice. Murdock said, yes – New Hartford used to spray. However, spray was expensive and killed off the native species which allowed the invasives to take over. There was a strong request to stop the spraying, so, the Town has stopped spraying and have returned to mowing and wacking weeds.

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

Barkhamsted – Behrens said that there will be a 4th of July parade at 10:30 a.m. Anyone is welcome to come and march. The parade route goes along West River Road to the school. The Committee discussed the possibility of using this as an opportunity to get the Wild & Scenic message out and also distribute maps.

Canton – Robinson said that Corrigan came to Bristol farms and did a walk to look for invasives along the river and on the farm. She was discouraged by the amount of Stilt grass she saw.

New Hartford – Murdock said that Corrigan also came and did an invasives walk for one of the river front owners. It was attended by 10 other people. She provided information to distribute to neighbors.

FRWA – Fielding said that FRWA will be sponsoring a walk on July 10 with Russ Cohen at Stratton Brook State Park on wild edible plants – many of which are invasive. Cohen is the author of the book: “Wild Plants I Have Known and Eaten”.

Fielding also announced that demolition of the Spoonville Dam will begin on July 5.

7. Next meeting dates: (Please note that some changes have been made to schedule)

- **Orientation for New Committee Members:** July 2 at 5:00 p.m. at Squire’s
- **Full Committee Meetings:** July 16 at 5:30 p.m. (Please note earlier time); August 20
- **Subcommittee Meetings:**
 - **E&O** – July 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Squires; August 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Squire’s
 - **RS** – July 3 at 4:00 p.m. by conference call; August 13 at Squire’s

8. Adjourn: 8:02 p.m.

After adjourning, Committee members then enjoyed a potluck picnic.