



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2013
Squire’s tavern – 100 East River Road
Pleasant Valley, CT

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep); Ross Delaney (Colebrook Rep); 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); Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep), Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted Alt), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Secretary), Nicki Hall (Hartland Alt), David Sinish (FRWA Rep)

Guests: Betsy Corrigan (consulting botanist); Serena Dipilato (intern), Alicea Charamut (TU)

- 1. Call to Order:** Vice-Chair Murdock called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Acknowledged that we had not met as a full committee since December due to weather and other issues.
- 2. Introductions:** Committee members and guests introduced themselves.
- 3. Review Minutes of November 19 and December 17, 2012:** Both sets of minutes were approved as presented.
- 4. Betsy Corrigan – Presentation of 2012 Invasive Plant Management Actions and Plans for 2013:** Betsy reported that she had completed the 2012 report (which is available electronically) and presented some highlights of the work she and others had accomplished during 2012 – including: involving community service clients, MDC assistance at Goodwin dam, ConnDOT cooperation, and work by CT DEEP foresters. Species of focus included and continue into 2013: knapweed, stiltgrass, phragmites, autumn olive, slender snake cotton, lesser celandine. 2013 will be a concentrated effort to involve more private landowners, to have neighborhood work parties (“Tupperweed” parties) and other educational workshops. Zara Dowling continues as part-time coordination of outreach and database development. WSU Intern Sarah Shearer worked with Betsy and Zara throughout semester to help organize GIS information and database.
- 5. Discussion on Recreational Management Project:** Project leader David Sinish gave the committee a status report. He and WSU intern Serena talked about the interviews she conducted to complete the list of interviewees the working group had suggested. She completed a written summary of some actions being taken across the nation to address some of the issues of behavior, trash, glass etc. They had put together a graphic – “What’s the Problem?” showing a frequency distribution of cited problems in the interviews. The committee had a few suggestions to make the graphic more understandable and was appreciative of Serena’s good work. Next steps are a “no glass/no trash” campaign this spring and summer, and in the long-term, a stakeholders meeting to discuss further actions.
- 6. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding gave the report. Balances of accounts were – checking: \$4,631.68, scholarships: were listed as \$1,522.21 – but should be \$2,022.21 - as \$500 is needed into that account from FRWA for TU’s contribution to the Water Trail map last year.

7. Old Business:

Resource Stewardship: Anthony reported on the following projects:

Winchester Land Trust Request for Funds: The Winchester Land Trust had asked for assistance in covering associated costs (including surveying) of accepting as a donation a 1.6-acre property in Winsted. The RS subcommittee reviewed the request and conducted a site visit to the 1.6 acre parcel and found it worthy of FRCC assistance. The property met several of the important criteria FRCC considers when making a decision on assistance – it included land adjacent to a major tributary to the Farmington, wildlife habitat values/native species, unprotected open space, has a willing owner, and will provide a needed buffer to the river from developed areas. FRCC reps also acknowledged the committee’s wish to help Winsted clean up and restore the Still River area. The total amount requested \$2,400 was approved unanimously - pending NPS funding secured.

Still River Project: There will be some work this year to identify property owners and activities that contribute to water quality degradation and to find additional projects that will help with stormwater runoff. Sean Hayden is continuing to work with the town to locate other interested land owners and projects.

Vernal Pools: Betsy Corrigan will continue to field check vernal pools in Colebrook.

Angler’s Trail at Greenwoods: More life coming into the project. Anthony getting signs ready for installation at the various sites on the riverside trail at Greenwoods.

Mapping: The subcommittee spent some time reviewing the Management Plan update maps providing input to Jeff Bolton at FRWA so he can finalize the maps.

Stream Crossing Project: FRWA with help from Alicea Charamut of TU will be working on a project to assess stream crossings in the upper watershed. It is possible FRCC’s summer interns may be able to help with some of the field work – but additional volunteers are needed.

Education and Outreach: Sinish reported on the following projects:

FRCC Scholarships: Roger Behrens reported that there had been two applications so far but that he expected at least one more before the closing date. The subcommittee will review applicants and make recommendations to the full committee at the next meeting.

Enewsletter – An e- newsletter had gone out to discuss didymo and other topics. More will be going out as needed – will have help during the summer from intern – who will also help with Facebook page.

Junior River Ranger Booklet – Version number 3 is in the works and should be ready for this summer for distribution. Still working on how to get more kids back for badges and certificates after completing the booklet’s activities.

Website – The subcommittee is still considering whether an upgrade to the website is needed. If we as a committee see the website as a repository of information and a place to direct people for information – then it doesn’t seem as necessary to have it upgraded. Our summer iintern will likely be making improvements and keeping it up to date.

Outings – The subcommittee suggests that we have an “insects and hatches” walk on May 20 prior to the regular meeting. June meeting will be held at Goodwin dam with scholarship presentation and paddle prior to meeting. July 15 will be an invasives tour with Betsy prior to meeting. And a macroinvertebrate focus before the meeting in August.

8. New Business/Other:

- Mike Beauchene of DEEP had requested some help on opening day of fishing for didymo outreach and cleaning stations. Lacy will circulate his request.
- Lacy reported that we will have two interns this summer – Peter LeDuc who received a scholarship last year – and Carl Favata from WSU. Peter will primarily work with Betsy and Carl will help with outreach and communications.

9. Town and Organization Reports:

MDC – Anthony reported that so far water levels were looking good – Colebrook was refilling nicely, West Branch reservoir was okay, East Branch was spilling and they were holding McDonough at a needed elevation.

DEEP – Peterson said that DEEP is creating water quality regulations from the policies it has. There will be a public meeting soon to discuss the new regs and she will circulate the information. It will also be on the DEEP website.

10. Adjourn: 9:27 p.m.