



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 25, 2021 7:00 pm
(Held Via Zoom)

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative, Roger Behrens, Alternate), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Committee Chair), Canton (Lans Perry, Secretary), FRWA (David Sinish, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, FRCC Director and Andrew Petitdemange, NPS staff), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swensen, Representative).

Absent: Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Representative), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, RS Subcomm. Chair and Tony Mitchell, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Arrestad, Representative), Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate).

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Bowler

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of December 21, 2020 meeting were consensually approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s report dated 1/19/2021, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$18,254.18 on 12/15/2020. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of the total and was unchanged. During the month \$4,261.70 from FRCC checking paid for River Steward work from 10-1-2020 to 12-31-2020. There were no other expenditures. The checking account ending book balance was \$13,797.84 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund the ending total balance was \$13,992.48. The remaining FY2021 and prior NPS CA budgeted account balance per report was \$165,000.00 on 1/19/2021. Consensually approved.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Santoro has accepted the Vice Chair position. Bowler, Lacy and Petitdemange, along with Aimee Petras of FRWA met with members of the Lower Farmington River W+S group to encourage good communication and share ideas. Discussed stewards at length.

-Resource Stewardship:

- Lacy led a lengthy discussion of items discussed at 1-5-21 RS mtg.
- East River Road – Don Stein says “things are in the works...”
- West River Road project plan revisions still progressing and being refocused on original goal of bank stabilization. A \$10,000 grant increase for the WRR project may be requested to help cover construction costs.

-Education and Outreach:

- Sinish led discussion of items from 1-4-21 E+O mtg. Quilt on hold. Bastrzycki and Swensen working on monofilament collection ideas. Groundworks seeks mentoring, not to be a burden to stewards. Swensen noted his discussions with Colonel Lewis of CT DEEP EnCon Police led to a suggested meeting with EnCon police planned

for 2-10-21 to discuss tip line and enhanced cooperation with stewards and guides. Kiosk updating discussed including the possibility of added kiosks perhaps at tubing takeout point in Canton and perhaps another downstream of there. Added kiosks might be developed or funded by others.

Long discussion of the draft RFP for Messaging Materials and Communications Strategy for the Upper Farmington River led to a consensus that it should be issued as soon as possible to potential providers of the requested items.

Sinish and Bastrzycki have met with Canton First Selectman Bob Bessel and the Canton River Access Committee. Next meeting is planned for Wednesday 1-27-21. Petidmange urged FRCC to help harness Canton's enthusiasm and energy for the good of the river.

A long discussion of need for added stewards and FRCC's need to control the program led to a unanimously approved Motion by Sinish, seconded by Swensen to increase FRCC's FY21 steward program funding by \$9,500.00 to cover costs of two additional stewards, added administration and supplies.

5. New Business/Other: FY22 Draft Budget was presented by Petidmange and a motion was made by Bowler and seconded by Sinish to approve that budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously by all present. New Hartford and Colebrook will be contacted to get their required approval as well.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook:** Absent
- **Hartland:** Nothing to report beyond items already discussed.
- **Barkhamsted:** Behrens noted FALPS may need assistance on cost of new printing of maps. He will follow up.
- **New Hartford:** Absent
- **Canton:** Nothing to report beyond items already discussed.
- **FRWA:** Hart noted she hopes for 4 FRWA interns this year including two returning interns with needed skills.
- **DEEP:** Gocłowski noted Upper Collinsville dam work has resumed. Expects that fish ladder will be done soon and ready for season. Opening Day of 2021 fishing season likely to be changed to an earlier date as was done in 2020.
- **MDC:** Randazzo noted drought of 2020 is over. Reservoirs at planned full capacity. Everything is looking good.
- **River Steward:** Bastrzycki has no word yet on Satan's Kingdom tubing concessionaire's plans for 2021 season.
- **FRAA:** Swensen noted Earth Day plans look great. Bottle Bill being reintroduced. No Riverton Fishing Derby this year. Planned poaching meeting on 2-10-21 should help. Guides' Association may form to assist on environmental issues. Drive-In movie night may happen.
- **NPS** – Lacy welcomes new administration and added funding and has hopes things will be ever better. Petidmange urges other members to reach out and discuss matters with him.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday February 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom
Sub-Committee Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday February 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom
Full Committee: February 22, March 15, April 19, and May 17. Zoom

8. Adjourn : 8:57 PM adjournment.