



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2020 7:00 pm
(Held Via Conference Call)

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative, Roger Behrens, Alternate), Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Committee Vice Chair), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Committee Chair), Canton (Lans Perry, Secretary), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), FRWA (David Sinish, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, FRWA staff), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, RS Subcomm. Chair, and Tony Mitchell, Alternate), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, FRCC Director)

Absent: Farmington Rivers Angler Association (Mark Swensen, Representative)

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

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of May 18, 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 6/9/2020, which was presented by Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$21,226.34. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$1,194.64 of the total and was unchanged during the month. \$59.84 from FRCC checking paid the telephone bill. No other expenditures. The checking account ending book balance was \$19,871.86 and when added to the Pat Keener Fund the ending total balance was \$21,166.50. The FY2020 NPS budgeted account balance is now 75,000.00. After discussion, the report was consensually approved.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Nothing Discussed

- Resource/Stewardship:

- Clear cut on Cottage St. New Hartford:** Murdock led brief discussion of riverbank clearcut at Cottage Street in New Hartford. She will follow up to assist to get remediation complete. Reminded FRCC that River Overlay District issues are under purview of local Planning and Zoning Commissio. Questions and issues can be directed to local ZEOs.
- Support Letter Request from Colebrook Land Conservancy:** Lacy brought up Colebrook Land Conservancy’s request for a letter of support for the purchase of a critical piece of land on tributaries to the W+S West Branch. Lacy agreed to draft a letter of support and circulate letter and supporting data for review.
- New Hartford Multi-Use Trail:** Lacy and Bowler led discussion of New Hartford’s planned Farmington River Trail. They had listened to tonight’s New Hartford Trails meeting and FRCC letter was received. Trails committee seemed delighted and proud of their February public presentation. Not much new to report. Some concern at New Hartford political and Trails members fixation on cantilevered bridge in Gorge and implication by NH Trails group that CTDEEP supported trail through Gorge at site visit. Aarrestad to follow up and requested names if available.

- **Education and Outreach:**
 - **Quilt is at FRWA until Libraries reopen.**
 - **FRCC annual report** was finished and posted online by Hart and a request for quotation for printing 50 copies was sent to Goulet Printing.
 - **No Glass/No Trash Posters** – Printing done.
 - **Tubing Concession Closure for 2020:** Bowler led discussion of Mike Lambert’s offer to further discuss Satan’s Kingdom Gorge Area and Tubing now that Concessionaire is not going to open this season. Sinish lamented the Canton BOS intention to seek closure by CTDEEP of Recreation Area above gorge and take out area just above Cherry Brook. They are worried about no control by concessionaire leading to trash and safety issues. Canton Fire EMS Chief has discussed with New Hartford Fire EMS. CTDEEP wants to keep local recreation areas open and see how things go. Bastrzycki noted that FRCC Stewards counted 57 tubers per hour at the Gorge during peak hour versus over 600 per hour when tubing concessionaire was operating. Observed problems included that there’s more trash evident and a kayak got pinned in the rocks for a while. FRCC generally agreed that freedom to use river is a cherished value that should not be shut down without evidentiary support. River user counts at less than 10% of last year’s peaks seem workable for now and likely don’t support closure. Bowler will work with Lacy to frame possible issues to discuss with Lambert.
 - **Discussion of River Stewards** - 3 Hired and have worked 3 weeks. Much data gathered without paper forms. New videos in process to be posted on social media. Uniform apparel expected soon.
 - **Updated River Trail Brochure** – Disclaimer discussed and approved Roger’s wording as sent in email last week.
 - **Scholarship Decision done** – 3 applied plus one well after deadline. Conference Call agreed on one lucky winner who will be contacted again to confirm address and check and certificate will be sent.

5. New Business/Other: no further comment

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook** – Some concern due to lack of communication about gravel operation. No specific further comments.
- **Hartland:** Bowler presented Green Snow-Pro (Road Salt Abuse) to receptive Hartland BOS
- **Barkhamsted:** Stanclift Cove plans to open soon. No further comment
- **New Hartford:** Covered already
- **Canton:** BOS seeks to close Gorge. Inventiveness of river users likely would overcome such plans.
- **DEEP:** Managers meeting may offer insight into Trail through Gorge issue. Will report back.
- **FRWA:** Hart discussed difficulty getting lab tests done to support river monitoring. Help sought from Berkshire and USGS. Alisa will do macroinvertebrate surveys meanwhile. W+S Filmfest plans unclear at this time. Sinish intends to bring up Canton BOS’s Satan’s Kingdom Recreation Area and Take Out Point closure request at upcoming FRWA Board meeting.
- **MDC** - Colebrook level is high versus plan and likely will dump 3,000cfs soon which will exceed West Branch Reservoir gate capacity leading to spillway flow. Lake McDonough Beaches and Boating still closed. Might open. Fishing from shore permitted. Parking still closed at Saville Dam due to problems with crowding and no social distancing.
- **NPS** – Lacy official home base moving to Springfield Armory. Will enjoy support of local colleagues. 2 new junior Partnership W&S River positions posted to usajobs site. Lacy will still work at Squires as needed.
- **FRAA-** Absent no further comment.

**7. Next Meeting Dates: Sub-committees: Education and Outreach - Mon. July 6 at 6:30 PM by phone
Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday July 7 at 6:30 PM (866-423-6894 code 9815966)
Full Committee: July 20, August 17, September 21**

8. Adjourn : 8:19PM adjournment.