



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

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Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

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www.farmingtonriver.org

**Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2020 7:00 pm
(Held Via Conference Call)**

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, Laura Hart, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, RS Subcomm. Chair, Tony Mitchell, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Arrestad, Representative), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, FRCC Director)

Absent: Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Committee Vice Chair), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate), Farmington Rivers Angler Association (Mark Swensen, Representative),

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:04PM by Chairman Bowler

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of August 17, 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 9/16/2020, which was presented by Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$26,529.28. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of the total and was unchanged. During the month \$61.01 from FRCC checking paid the telephone bill. Other expenditures included \$5,500 to FRWA for water quality monitoring; \$4,500 to FRWA for Administration Fees; \$3,600 to BHS for rent at Squires; \$3,120.00 for River Stewards; \$240.00 to Jen Payne for Lower Farmington River Committee website; \$25.00 to Liberty Bank for fees; The checking account ending book balance was \$9,288.63 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund the ending total balance was \$9,483.27. The FY2020 NPS budgeted account balance per report was 45,000.00 on 9/16/2020. After discussion, the report was consensually approved. It was noted that after the report date \$30,000 was moved from FY2020 NPS budgeted account to the checking account.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Lacy led discussion of FY2021 budget highlighting critical items that we hope to complete during the next year. A call was issued for new volunteers to serve as officers of FRCC--Contact Lacy.

-Resource/Stewardship:

- Murdock gave brief review of usual issues from prior meetings. No big new developments.

- Lacy briefly discussed efforts by NPS and Princeton Hydro to agree on West River Road design plans to stabilize riverbank and solve undercutting problems. Barkhamsted hoping for added STEAP grant funding to complete the required work when the design is finally agreed upon.

-Education and Outreach:

- **Sinish summarized usual issues:** Quilt is at FRWA and is planned to go to Avon after COVID. New River Trail Brochure and Junior River Ranger handbooks are printed and at Squires closet. FRCC 2020 Open House cancelled after discussion. W+S Filmfest planned as virtual on 11-19-2020.
- **FRCC meeting with DEEP about outreach to river users:** Meeting with Tony Russell, DEEP Communications Director and others led to the recognition that DEEP does not have a standard outreach model we can adapt and therefore FRCC must work to develop an RFP on its own at least initially. Laura Hart and new NPS assistant Andrew Petitdemange can help. We have the off-season to develop our ideas and for further engagement with DEEP and others.
- **New Hartford Trail:** Town has advised trail consultants not to discuss matters outside of town events. Lacy discussed need for a forum to allow input from concerned parties and public-at-large.

5. New Business/Other: A more detailed discussion of the planned W+S Filmfest resulted in a Motion by Bowler Seconded by Sinish to provide \$850.00 to FRWA in support of the Filmfest. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook** – Absent
- **Hartland:** No News.
- **Barkhamsted:** Ginny Apple granted \$200 for Birds of Prey. Discussion of Trash on River and misleading article in Hartford Courant. It was noted that the CT318 and CT219 intersection at Saville Dam is being changed to a Tee.
- **New Hartford:** Covered already
- **Canton:** Planned River Access Study Committee applications due by 10/3/2020.
- **DEEP:** Discussion of conflicts between users on river and Farmington's unlawful attempt to ban fishing.
- **FRWA:** Bill Dornbos headed to new job at CTAG Office. Search for replacement planned. Meanwhile Laura Hart is now full time at FRWA. Aimee, Alisa, and Laura are keeping all the special projects and usual work moving ahead.
- **MDC** - Drought. West Branch Reservoir flowing at 70CFS (50CFS MDC min plus 20CFS DEEP). 73 CFS measured at Riverton and 83CFS measured at Unionville. Flows from sources other than WBR are minimal.
- **NPS** – Lacy expects new staff member Andrew Petitdemange to be a big help starting 10-1-2020. River Access Training now planned as virtual for 10/20-27/2020 details will be sent out soon. An In-depth federally-funded study of local river steward programs will start next month to offer insights and to suggest best practices for use here and elsewhere.
- **FRAA-** Absent.

**7. Next Meeting Dates: Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Mon. October 5 at 6:30 PM by phone
Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday October 6 at 6:30 PM (866-423-6894 code 9815966)
Full Committee: October 19, November 16, December 21.**

8. Adjourn : 8:16PM adjournment.