



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

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**Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 16, 2020 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), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, RS Subcomm. Chair and Tony Mitchell, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Rep. and Andrew Petitdemange, Alternate), Farmington Rivers Angler Association (Mark Swensen, Representative).

Absent: Colebrook

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Bowler

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of October 19, 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 11/9/2020, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The original report was consensually approved pending review of some issues which were corrected the next day as reflected below. The corrected 11/09/2020 report was issued on 11-17-2020. The beginning total balance was \$34,502.36 on 10/14/2020. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of the total and was unchanged. During the month \$61.07 from FRCC checking paid the telephone bill. Other expenditures included: \$5,000.00 to NHLT for Jones Property and \$127.63 to FRWA to reimburse for 1-year Zoom account. The checking account ending book balance was \$29,119.02 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund the ending total balance was \$29,313.66. An old check #5000019 for \$1,040.00 remains uncashed. The FY2020 NPS budgeted account balance per report was \$15,000.00 on 11/9/2020. The FY2021 NPS budgeted account balance per report was \$150,000.00 on 11/9/2020.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Election of officers: Sinish nominated Bowler as Chair seconded by Perry. Bowler nominated Stanton for Vice Chair seconded by Murdock. Discussion ensued about two-year limit. Murdock moved to waive limit and continue with current slate of officers for another year which was seconded by Aarrestad. Passed unanimously.

-Resource/Stewardship:

- There was a discussion of potential grant ideas including rain gardens and possible study of Cherry Brook water quality, etc. Laura Hart will bring suggestions to next R/S mtg. PSF demo project and GCCC discussed.

West River Road project design is in final stages after several iterations and improvements. Barkhamsted received a STEAP grant to assist with construction work. Nothing new on East River Road.

-Education and Outreach:

- **Long Discussion of FRCC outreach to river users:** Key issues include Overcrowding, Litter, River Bank Impacts, Parking, PFD's, Alcohol and Drug Use. These could be summarized as a lack of an ethic regarding respect for the resource, fellow users, and riparian property owners. Lacy briefly discussed NPS Visitor Use Management study being done by Confluence Research and noted that certain FRCC members may be called and interviewed/surveyed to collect wisdom and information useful for management best practices on "non-point source access rivers". Swensen discussed some ideas to reach out to users. Sinish suggested more small group meetings needed to refine ideas. Bowler summarized our goal as trying to get all users to feel an ownership of resource and an obligation to do the right things. Lacy warned that it is not just our river. She suggested involving other agencies and NGO's that focus on rivers to get input. Aarrestad noted DEEP is spread thin and would be challenged to devote much exclusive focus to rivers. Bowler urged us to answer our own needs now and others later. Lacy reminded all that our allies include other W+S river groups, CFPA, Rivers Alliance, etc.

- **Monofilament collection** on river to preclude resource damage will be discussed further by E+O. More later.

5. New Business/Other: Dealt with earlier in other agenda items.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook** – Absent
- **Hartland:** No News.
- **Barkhamsted:** No News.
- **New Hartford:** Brief discussion of Pollinator pathway ideas and possible plantings at FRWA Frey Lot
- **Canton:** Canton IWWA facilitated removal of illegal riverfront camping development on westside shoreline just downstream of Nepaug River confluence. Town Bridge still delayed at rehab facility.
- **DEEP:** Brief discussion of river conditions and stocking activities. Link to talk will be sent.
- **FRWA:** W+S Filmfest on 11/19/2020. FRCC Steward Video included. Content is available online until 11-26-2020 for ticket holders.
- **MDC** - Drought continues at moderate to severe intensity. West Branch stocked with 1,700 trout.
- **NPS** – Andrew Petitdemange again briefly introduced himself as a 10-year NPS veteran who previously worked at Boston Harbor Islands with broad experience in dealing with many resource and outreach issues analogous to those we face. Lacy and Petitdemange were precluded from visiting Squires on 10/30/2020 due to Covid rules. – hope to reschedule.
- **FRAA:** Big Plans for Earth Day River Clean-up with prizes; Pushing for Bottle Bill; Movie Night; Organizing River Guides Group to help Stewardship; Stocking. Concerns about angling pressure at spawning areas.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-Committee Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday December 1 at 6:30 PM (866-423-6894 code 9815966)

Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Mon. December 7 at 6:30 PM by phone.

Full Committee: December 21, January 25, February 22, March 15 and April 19 .

8. Adjourn : 8:52 PM adjournment.