



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 21, 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), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), 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 (Matt Gocłowski, Alternate), Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate).

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM by Chairman Bowler

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of November 16, 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 12/15/2020, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$29,313.66 on 11/9/2020. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of the total and was unchanged. During the month \$59.48 from FRCC checking paid the telephone bill. Other expenditures included: \$25.00 to Liberty Bank to cover a stop payment fee on a Steward’s check #5000019 for \$1,040.00 that was lost and reissued, \$850.00 to FRWA for WSFF, \$3,250.00 for Fiscal Administration (1/4), \$3,000.00 to FRWA for Project Assistance (1/4), \$3,875.99 to FRWA for Water Quality Monitoring (1/4). The checking account ending book balance was \$18,059.54 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund the ending total balance was \$18,254.18. The FY2020 NPS budgeted account balance per report was \$15,000.00 on 12/15/2020. The FY2021 NPS budgeted account balance per report was \$150,000.00 on 12/15/2020. Consensually approved.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Discussion of the Vice Chair position and the inability to contact Stanton regarding his acceptance of it resulted in a decision to consider the Vice Chair position unfilled. Bowler nominated Santoro for Vice Chair seconded by Perry. Passed unanimously. The evolving FRCC roles of NPS and Hart as discussed at the 12-2-2020 EXComm meeting were presented. Petitdemange is likely to be NPS representative with Lacy alternate in future. Lacy would retain financial and record keeping duties. ‘Director’ title likely to change to ‘Technical Service Staff’.

-Resource/Stewardship:

- Lacy led a discussion of items discussed at 12-1-2020 RS mtg. Hart noted possible FRWA-led Cherry Brook Water Quality Study would depend upon lab capacity that isn’t available just now. FRAA’s Swensen discussed idea of “Angler Stewards”, Gaging on East Branch, Monofilament collection stations, River clean-up to be held on Earth Day (if it can be coordinated with Apple and Barkhamsted), and possible bottle bill endorsement.

- West River Road project plan revisions still progressing and being refocused on original goal of bank stabilization. Nothing new on East River Road; but, a long discussion of need for attention to ERR led to Lacy volunteering to follow up with Don Stein and report back.

-Education and Outreach:

- Sinish led discussion of items from 12-7-2020 E+O mtg. Quilt still on Covid hold. Bastrzycki and Swensen working on monofilament collection ideas. Bastrzycki noted photos will remain on Flickr for now and ideas for categories or photo tags are welcome. Sinish and Petitdemange worked on outreach RFP and Petitdemange produced draft liked by Bowler. A zoom meeting on 1-6-2020 at 9:00 AM was set to discuss outreach RFP draft language further. Possible bidders and budget need to be determined as well. Sinish and Bastrzycki have met with Canton First Selectman Bob Bessel and developed presentations for the Canton River Access Committee. Bastrzycki attended Canton committee meeting. Flatwater access point at Canton DPW outside of the W+S section seems likely. FRCC's focus only on W+S and the possibilities and obvious limits of FRCC's possible help or partnering were discussed. FRCC scholarship info on webpage changed to reflect current fund status. Groundworks discussed at length. Concerns about possible diversion of FRCC stewards' time versus the real contribution GW could offer with multilingual partnering. GW may seek letter of support in grant application to Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund.

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

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook** – Absent-
- **Hartland:** Bowler spoke of pleasures of paddling high flows below Hogback. Cherishes and loves River...
- **Barkhamsted:** Santoro noted his appreciation for living by the river. Wildlife, herbs, chestnut trees... Behrens doesn't fish or paddle river. Loves wildlife, river time spent with grandkids. Likes MDC's Randazzo's ideas.
- **New Hartford:** Absent
- **Canton:** Perry noted crepuscular circuit of Pine Meadow island & Gorge exploring and climbs as recent joys.
- **FRWA:** Sinish never ceases to be amazed by river. Best place to live. Thinks we are doing a great job. Awestruck by number of happy river users. Hart is grateful for the chance to work for the river. Always something new. Paddling river into nature with sense of wild freedom. Hart played great art show video she created and posted on Vimeo. Link will be on FRCC and FRWA websites and distributed to lists.
- **DEEP:** Aarrestad hiked Peoples early in year. Enjoyed Norbrook. Skied there recently. Loves river time - friends...
- **River Steward** Bastrzycki echoed how fortunate he is to be in Barkhamsted. River brings joy to many...
- **FRAA:** Swensen fishing has been great. Mergansers doing well. Eagles always a treat. 30" Brown amazing...
- **NPS** – Petitdemange noted he's never visited river but hopes to soon. Knows it through all of us. Lacy noted her daughters are soon to be 21 and were babies when she started at FRCC. Feels blessed by her FRCC contacts and the river. Urges daughters to follow their bliss as well.
- **MDC** - Randazzo spoke of 33 years as a civil engineer at MDC. Environmentalist not a politician. 31,000 acres mostly in Farmington River watershed. Noted jaw-dropping beauty of Hogback seen through eyes of CA visitors. FRCC is a diverse group of members with different backgrounds who get along. Behrens expressed thanks to Jim.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday January 4, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom
Sub-Committee Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday January 5, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom
Full Committee: January 25, February 22, March 15 and April 19. Zoom

8. Adjourn : 9:00 PM adjournment.