



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
P.O. Box 395
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 22, 2021 7:00 pm
(Held Via Zoom)

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative, Committee Vice Chair and Roger Behrens, Alternate), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Representative, Committee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative and Tony Mitchell, Alternate), Canton (Lans Perry, Representative, Committee Secretary, RS Subcomm. Chairman), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, Representative), Andrew Petittdemange, Representative, NPS staff), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swensen, Representative).

Absent: Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Representative), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate). National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff).

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

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of January 25, 2021 meeting were consensually approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s report dated 2/16/2021, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$13,992.48 on 1/19/2021. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of the total and was unchanged. During the month no expenditures were made. A transfer of \$15,000.00 to the checking account comprising the entire balance of FY2020 NPS CA funds was initiated and pending. The checking account ending book balance was \$13,797.84 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund and the pending \$15,000.00 from NPS FY20 funds yielded an ending total balance of \$28,992.48. The remaining FY2021 NPS CA budgeted account balance per report was \$150,000.00 on 2/16/2021. Consensually approved.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Bowler requested a confirmation of prior steward fund vote. Perry has accepted the RS Chair position.

-Resource Stewardship:

- Bowler discussed Hartland Land Trust’s plan to apply for a Cornell Small Grant for work at their Mill District Nature Preserve. HLT sought our endorsement which the full committee granted by consensus.
- Perry highlighted Lacy’s and Murdoch’s previously distributed notes about items discussed at 2-2-21 RS meeting. Notes about subcommittee meetings will be distributed to full committee in future.
- Sinish moved, Perry second, to appropriate \$300.00 to FRWA for professional meeting fees. Unanimous.
- Perry moved, Sinish second, to appropriate \$10,000.00 to Barkhamsted as a grant increase for the ongoing West River Road project to help cover additional and construction costs. Unanimous.

-Education and Outreach: - Sinish led discussion of items from 2-1-21 E+O mtg. Quilt on hold--had 85 online views. Art show had 355 views. Swensen showcased planned monofilament collection kits. Swensen and Bastrzycki met CT DEEP EnCon Police Sgt on 2-10-21 to discuss tip line and enhanced ENCON police cooperation with stewards and guides. Built trust. Made plans to improve enforcement by better training in strategies to stop

river abuse and communicate with police. Kiosk updating discussed including the possibility of kiosk replacement and added kiosks.

RFP for Messaging Materials and Communications Strategy for the Upper Farmington River was issued to 45 potential bidders and has some responses. Sinish to follow up and report.

Sinish, Bastrzycki and the Canton River Access Committee meet every two weeks working on access points and details. Bastrzycki discussed plans for six stewards this year. In a reconfirmation of procedurally questionable motion made at 1-25-21 meeting, unanimously approved Motion by Bowler, seconded by Perry to increase FRCC's FY21 steward program funding by \$9,500.00 to cover costs of two additional stewards, added administration and supplies. Behrens moved, Perry second, to appropriate \$950.00 to FALPS for map printing fees. Unanimous.

5. New Business/Other: Petitedmange led discussion of need for more involvement by more people and groups to better meet challenges and fulfill mission of committee. Ideas included bylaw changes to encourage better attendance, recruitment assistance to towns and providing direct links on FRCC website to each town's new representative application materials, adding junior members, adding more affiliated group associate members, possibility of retreat to review past actions and make future plans. Funds that must be used before new CA in October 2022 are available to support more activities and initiatives. Please think on this and come up with innovative and effective ways to build the committee's capacity to do ever more good work.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook:** Absent
- **Hartland:** Bowler discussed Green Sno-Pro with town second selectman. "Let's face it, the weather is improving (slightly), and the last thing anyone wants to think about is winter and road salt. However, now is the time to start planning for next year! New Hampshire's Green Snow Pro certification program has been adapted here in Connecticut, and the results are dramatic. Documentation of actual salt reductions from a small watershed will be presented in this webinar, along with cost savings and feedback from facilities staff. "
Slides link: <http://clear.uconn.edu/webinars/CLEARseries20/GSP-2020.pdf>
Video Link: https://kaltura.uconn.edu/media/Green+Snow+Pro+TrainingA+Proven+to+Reduce+Road+Salt+Impacts/1_bend2kso
- **Barkhamsted:** Previously discussed.
- **New Hartford:** More building planned on US44 by Marandino Plaza. Vote on sale of Water and Sewer assets. See details at <https://www.newhartfordct.gov/potential-water-sewer-asset-sale>
- **Canton:** Nothing to report beyond items already discussed.
- **FRWA:** Hart confirmed plans for 4 FRWA interns this year.
- **DEEP:** Arrestad noted fish were stocked early at West Hill, Highland, and from Goodwin Dam down to CCC bridge abutments. Opening Day of 2021 fishing season likely to be changed to an earlier date as was done in 2020.
- **MDC:** Randazzo noted flows and snowpack look good. Reservoirs full. Beaches might open this year if safe.
- **River Steward:** Bastrzycki has no word yet on Satan's Kingdom tubing concessionaire's plans for 2021 season.
- **FRAA:** Swensen noted great excitement, enthusiasm, and support among FRAA's hundreds of members.
- **NPS** – Petitedmange lauded 2-9-21 mid-day (12-1PM) meeting with managers of other partnership W+S rivers from Maine to Florida. Quarterly meetings planned. Will keep committee informed and urges attendance.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday March 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom
Sub-Committee Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom
Full Committee: March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21. Zoom

8. Adjourn : 8:37 PM adjournment.