



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
860-738-2456 www.farmingtonriver.org

Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 19, 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), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), Canton (Lans Perry, Representative, Committee Secretary, RS Subcomm. Chairman), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, Representative by phone), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward),

Absent: Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate), New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), Canton (Matt Vinick, Alternate), National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative, NPS staff), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swenson, Representative).

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

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of June 21, 2021 meeting with minor corrections were approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s Report dated 7/15/2021, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$60,447.42 on 6/15/2021. The Pat Keener Scholarship Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of that total and was unchanged. \$24,423.98 was spent during the period. \$12,147.50 went to support our river stewards program. Two checks totaling \$9,550.00 were made to LUMI to pay costs incurred pursuing FRCC’s River Messaging campaign. \$95.00 was paid Goulet Printery for Printing Annual Reports. A transfer was made to FRWA totaling \$192.00 as reimbursement for payments to Webflow for hosting website. \$2,400.00 went to Tree Savers for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid control beetles. \$22.00 went for stamps. \$17.48 went to replenish Junior River Ranger Supplies. The checking account ending book balance was \$35,828.80 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund yielded an ending total balance of \$36,023.44. The remaining FY2021 NPS CA budgeted account balance per report was \$75,000.00 on 7/15/2021. Consensually approved.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Open House is tentatively planned for October 14.

Jim Randazzo of MDC gave a detailed explanation of current river flows. Otis is full and spilling to Colebrook. Colebrook is above the level it needs to be at to provide its designed flood control function so it is releasing about 1,600CFS to West Branch Reservoir and will be releasing water as quickly as it safely can to restore its designed storage capacity. With the current 1,600 CFS discharge from Colebrook, 400 CFS goes through the Goodwin hydro plant and drain gates with about 1,200 CFS going over the spillway. That flow is joined with the Sandy Brook/Still River flow below Riverton which has been at record high levels as well. The West Branch is joined by the East Branch and Nepaug River which are spilling over their MDC dams as well. A spell of dry weather is forecast and it is hoped that will allow the situation to return to normal. [Detailed river gaging station reports can be found by visiting the FarmingtonRiverSteward.org website and following the Check Out Current River Conditions link to <https://frwa.org/river-info/river-flows-forecasts>].

-Resource Stewardship:

- Work continues on current RS projects as documented in last month's RS minutes with no dramatic changes worthy of specific mention.

- Perry noted that the RS subcommittee had endorsed a request from FRWA for a grant of \$4,000.00 to cover the continuation of Headwaters Water Quality Monitoring work in Massachusetts that had lost its funding. Perry made a motion to appropriate \$4,000.00 for a grant to FRWA for Water Quality Monitoring in the Massachusetts headwaters as requested. Seconded by Jassen and approved unanimously.

-Education and Outreach: See minutes of E+O meeting held 7/12/21 for detailed information.

- Sinish discussed how pleased E+O was with the FarmingtonRiverSteward.org website and expressed thanks to all involved. Quilt heading to Avon on August 2, 2021 and will be displayed through the end of September. Canton River Access Committee work continues with details on Town website. The first monofilament collection box will be installed by Bastrzycki and Swenson during last week in July with more to be installed by Groundwork Bridgeport crew. Kiosk work is underway by Bill Winchester. GIS mapping work looks quite favorable though concerns remain on how to present the various possible launching and landing sites and expected travel times because so much depends upon the type of watercraft and the skill and energy of the participants.

- Bastrzycki noted that the River stewards have been hampered by high water but have been active in invasive plant removal work, marched in Barkhamsted's July 4th parade, and plan more videos including one about river flows. The stewards had great results working on projects with help from Groundwork Bridgeport partially funded by an NPS matching fund grant secured by Petitemange. 3 more sessions are planned.

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5. New Business/Other: Items previously discussed.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Hartland:** Bowler continues to follow up on Hogback Road wetlands. Site flooded and scoured in recent rains.
- **Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford, River Steward, DEEP:** Nothing Additional
- **MDC:** River Flow was discussed at time of Executive Subcommittee report.
- **Canton:** C'ville Canoe and Kayak is allowing Stewards to use their watercraft. Police enforcement below gorge.
- **FRWA:** Simsbury Riverfest outreach plans coming along well. New Public Landing by Flower Bridge dedicated. Rainbow Dam cyanobacteria work continues. Several rain gardens underway in local communities. FRWA will hold annual meeting in November.
- **NPS:** Cooperative Agreement modifications are making good progress for next year's budget.
- **FRAA:** Absent

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday August 2, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom

Sub-Committee Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday August 3, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom

Full Committee: August 16, September 20, October 14 (Tentative Open House at Squires), November 15.

8. Adjourn : 8:36 PM adjournment.