



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 20, 2021 7:00 pm
(Virtual Meeting 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 and Matt Vinick, Alternate), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Paige Vichiola, FRWA Summer Staff), , National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative, NPS staff), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swenson, Representative), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward).

Absent: Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate), New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), FRWA (Laura Hart, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, Representative), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate),

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Bowler

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of August 16, 2021 meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s Report dated 9/16/2021, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$24,709.22 on 8/12/2021. The Pat Keener Scholarship Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of that total and was unchanged. On 9/1/2021 \$37,500.00 was added to the checking account from FY2021 NPS CA budgeted funds. \$7,255.00 was spent during the period which went to support our river stewards program. The checking account ending book balance was \$54,759.58 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund yielded an ending total balance of \$54,954.22. The remaining FY2021 NPS CA budgeted account balance per report was \$37,500.00 on 9/16/2021. Consensually approved.

Treasurer Sinish led a discussion of FRCC’s payment approval process noting that payments had been delayed by FRWA’s inability to contact Lacy to get her approval on a timely basis. The Lower Farmington uses an approval process requiring their Chairman and Treasurer to endorse the actual payment request. FRCC executive committee decided to follow that same concept in Lacy’s absence and FRCC’s Treasurer and Chairman had approved a few specific payments on fully approved budgeted FRCC projects. It was agreed that we would seek guidance from Lacy regarding what FRCC resolutions, if any, we might need to continue the same payment approval process in the future.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: After lengthy discussions it was decided that no Open House would be held this fall.

-Resource Stewardship: Work continues on current RS projects with nothing remarkable to report. Canton’s Planning and Zoning Commission discovered that the wording of its regulations had inadvertently extended its river protection overlay district to cover all river frontage in the town despite the PZC’s intent and belief that it covered only the W+S reach. A public hearing on correcting this newly apparent error will be held soon. It is not expected to involve changes to the W+S reach.

Matt Vinick noted the flow through West Branch Reservoir at peak flow this summer was so high that WBR's entire contents were changed in less than three days. The high flow depleted the typical cold water from the depths of the pool and resulted in higher than normal river temperatures this summer. He also discussed the tract of land downstream of the Ovation plant in New Hartford suggesting it be conserved. Locals plan on development.

-Education and Outreach:

- Sinish discussed how pleased E+O was with the FarmingtonRiverSteward.org website and expressed thanks to all involved. Lumi documented large increases in traffic on our websites and on social media as well. Some content was incongruous and local input and review is critical. The advertising that helped drive traffic won't continue in the off-season. Quilt installed at Avon on August 2, 2021 and will be displayed through the end of October. Canton River Access Committee and town have negotiated to buy more than 2 acres on the river from the State. Monofilament collection boxes are working well.. Kiosk work is underway by Bill Winchester.

- Sinish noted that the River stewards have finished their work and returned to school. Bastrzycki will complete his stewardship season report soon.

FRCC was made aware that some very preliminary discussions about providing a footbridge across the river at the old CCC bridge site were held locally and seem to have the support of some local political leaders.

5. New Business/Other: Items previously discussed.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Barkhamsted:** Riverton Fair will be October 8, 9, and 10 this year. FALPS Benefit at Little Red Barn Brewery, 32 Lake Street, Winsted 4-8PM on 9-29-21.
- **Hartland:** Hogback Road Wetlands violator has applied to Hartland Wetlands Commission.
- **New Hartford:** Murdock is working on Stream Crossing Study Review and How best to present.
- **Colebrook, River Steward:** Nothing Additional
- **MDC:** Absent
- **Canton:** Collins Company redevelopment discussions continue. Tubing Concessionaire closed a tough season.
- **FRWA:** WQM done. Rainbow Dam cyanobacteria work continues. RBV training was held.
- **NPS:** Petidmange suggested discussing what volunteers are doing for the river and FRCC now, what they could do and what is needed. He noted that FY21 is soon to close and we should think about our plans and need to spend down FY22 funds by next October. Management Plan Update due in 2023 can be anything from a reaffirmation of the current plan to a complete rewrite.
- **DEEP:** Aarrestad noted a planned Webex virtual meeting of Hogback Commission. He will attend. River flow from WBR has been dropped temporarily to 50CFS to allow DEEP to more easily capture large brown trout for breeding purposes.
- **FRAA:** Swenson discussed branding of monofilament boxes and suggested similar opportunities on the guidebook update he is doing now. He sought info on HOBOS and will contact DEEP.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday October 4, 2021 at 5:30 PM Zoom

Sub-Committee Resource Stewardship – Tuesday October 5, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom

Full Committee: October 18 (Tentatively at Squires), November 15, December 20, January 17.

8. Adjourn : 9:00 PM adjournment.