



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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Minutes
Resource Stewardship subcommittee
Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 6:30 PM
Zoom

Attendance: Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, Secretary and R/S Subcommittee Chair), Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair), FRWA (Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate and Susan Peterson, Alternate), National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative), FVTU (Jim Buchok, Representative) – Guest: Kim Bradley, DEEP

Meeting called to order: 6:33 pm

1) Nepaug State Forest trail authorization – Kim Bradley director of Trails and Greenways from DEEP presented on the recreational trails in Nepaug and working with Matt regarding moving trails away from tributaries and working with the NMBA (mountain biking group). Explained the proposal by the New England Mountain Bike Association to have DEEP authorize recreation trail(s) in Nepaug State Forest. Currently, there are many unauthorized trails in Nepaug State Forest used by not only bikes, but motorcycles, ATVs, even cars and trucks. Kim stated that many of the trails would be removed and only non-motorized use would be authorized on the trails (open to mountain biking/hiking/etc). The authorized trail would not run close to the river to minimize erosion and bank destabilization. If and when DEEP authorization occurs, signs would be posted to encourage reporting of unauthorized use to Conservation Police (EnCon). Will close some trails and connect existing trails. They are also working with the state forester, Jill Humphry and with Jim Warner. Compiling comments and making recommendations for the trail system. Plan is to focus trails in more concentrated area, to allow for recreation and then allowing for larger tracks of undisturbed lands to keep habitat open.

2) Invasive Plant Management - March 11 FVTU volunteer event to remove invasive plants has been moved to March 25. The focus will be on the Frey Property.

3) Water Quality Monitoring - FRWA 2022 Water Quality Report has been prepared. Susan asked Laura to share with folks at DEEP. Comments to Laura and other FRWA staff have indicated that the results are more helpful when representatives can see findings that clearly relate to specific towns. Committee members were encouraged to take time to go through the results before the March 20th meeting.

NAACC membership request \$1,250 for stream-crossing assessment database. Jim moved to approve, Andrew seconded. Passed unanimously.

FVTU will be donating \$250 to the NAACC membership as well.

4) Land Protection - The Colebrook Conservation Commission requested \$8,000 to develop the Natural Resources Inventory report for 2024. Jim Buchok expressed interest in getting more information on native Brook trout and ruffed grouse in the Colebrook fish and bird studies. Alison offered to pass on the interest in these species to the grant applicant, Joyce Hemingson. **Colebrook NRI proposal request \$8,000. Laura moved to approve. Andrew seconded. Passed unanimously.**

5) RFP Scientific Study Archive – potential to work with all CT W&S Rivers for this database. Will be meeting with University contacts to discuss options and need for access. Laura and Andrew discussed discussing the archiving of documents and creation of a searchable database with UCONN biology or environmental studies professors. This project could be expanded to include all Wild and Scenic Rivers in Connecticut. The goal would be to have UCONN keep and maintain the database and provide access to interested stakeholders. The committee will be kept informed as new information develops.

6) Others

FVTU and Tractor Supply Company are getting trees to plant. FVTU looking for sites, likely for planting in April. Potential for Mallory Brook. Trout Unlimited are working on completion of twenty (20) culvert/stream crossing sites. National Trout Unlimited has a grant to plant 25,000 trees nationally. They will be planting appropriate trees in areas where invasive plants are removed.

Laura to share CT Land Conservation Council conference on 5/25 at Wesleyan University. Travel and registration expenses can be reimbursed. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

DEEP – Matt reported DEEP has received Long Island Sound Study funds for culverts – looking for projects that are ready for replacement. Meeting on this topic will be scheduled soon.

8. Adjourn: 7:42PM