



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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Minutes
Resource Stewardship subcommittee
Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 6:30 PM
Zoom

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

Call to Order 6:33 pm

1) Invasive Plant Management

Andrew spoke with Betsy Corrigan about developing a plan to manage invasive species for this season. Betsy suggested that we target one or two species each month and enlist the support of groups such as Trout Unlimited and FRAA and others who might be interested in “adopting” a section of river-front. It was suggested that we work with Earthtones Nursery to purchase native plant species to replace the invasive plants that are removed. Andrew suggested that we might want to think about creating a grant program to fund native plant purchase for riverfront land owners who want to remove invasive plants and replant with native species. Alison M. and Jim B. offered to walk with Andrew and Betsy if they investigate areas that are a priority for invasive plant removal.

Alison M suggested that in addition to replacing invasives with native species, we should also try to address the root cause of the disturbance that allows invasives to take over.

2) Hemlock Woolley Adelgid (HWA) control project

Based on reports from Dr. Carole Cheah, 90% of the HWA were killed during the low temperatures of the Polar Vortex in February. Laura will contact Dr. Cheah to see if the cold temperatures and subsequent HWA survival decline have changed her plans, either timing or location, for this spring’s beetle release.

3) Water Quality Monitoring

Chloride monitoring is underway. In some locations temperature monitoring probes have been deployed. FRWA is in the process of hiring seasonal staff to assist with water monitoring.

4) Land Protection

There are no land protection grants this month, but Laura has heard that the Winchester Land Trust may submit a grant request for May.

5) RFP Scientific Study Archive

Andrew and Laura met with Ashley Helton and a graduate student from the University of Connecticut – Department of Natural Resources and the Environment to discuss the RFP for creation of a searchable database for scientific studies on Connecticut Wild and Scenic Rivers starting with the Farmington. They expressed interest in the project possibly making it a graduate student project. UCONN has completed significant studies of the Farmington and other rivers in Connecticut. UConn has also offered to provide presentations on the Farmington River based on various research they have conducted.

6) Others: Continuing/new

Cherry Brook Tree Cutting: DOT has been cutting trees along Cherry Brook and the tree cutting extends very close to the water. There is a concern for stream bank erosion from storm water runoff. FRWA reached out to DEEP about this activity. Susan said that DEEP has opened a complaint and has contacted DOT about the activity. DEEP is waiting to hear back from DOT.

Culverts: Laura reported that Matt recently held an informative meeting to discuss culvert surveys. Matt noted that when DEEP Fisheries lost staff, culvert surveys fell by the wayside. Now that there are new staff, they are getting training and also reaching out to other groups throughout the state that are doing culvert surveys. Andrew mentioned that a similar project is being done by Westfield River W&S and they have developed a map identifying priority culverts and impairments. He can provide a connection with the person doing the mapping, if interested. Laura said mapping was also discussed at Matt's meeting.

PFAS in Cherry Brook: Susan P. said that LFSWS had sent her an e-mail asking about PFAS discovered in Cherry Brook per a study report from a Town of Canton consultant. Susan sent inquiry to DEEP Remediation Division. DEEP Remediation said the Town consultant had recently reached out to them to set up a meeting to discuss the report. (Study conducted by Town consultant.) DEEP Remediation was waiting for the meeting to be arranged and had not received a copy of the report yet. Susan said that her basic understanding was that fire fighter training using firefighting foam with PFAS had been conducted at some point in the past near Cherry Brook Elementary School. Apparently, PFAS from this site has made its way into Cherry Brook.

(After the meeting, Laura found and supplied link to the report:

[https://www.townofcantonct.org/filestorage/19342/19345/45372/47063/PFAS Environmental Report to BOS 03.2 2.23 - powerpoint.pdf \)](https://www.townofcantonct.org/filestorage/19342/19345/45372/47063/PFAS%20Environmental%20Report%20to%20BOS%2003.2%202.23%20-%20powerpoint.pdf)

Green SnowPro Training: Laura received positive feedback from the Town of Winchester, and they are using less road salts particularly around waterbodies

Tree Planting near Mallory Brook in Barkhamsted: Jim B. spoke with the property owner, and he does not want any trees planted along Mallory Brook or near the Tractor Supply Store. Jim will look into other sites for tree planting.

West River Road Bank Stabilization Project: Susan P. reported that DEEP has indicated that a mussel species of concern may be present in the project area, making the project permitting more complicated. A mussel expert will need to conduct a survey and put together a management plan for DEEP to review and approve. This delays the final project permitting approval. If mussels are present, they will need to be relocated, prior to project construction. Other concerns include the narrow time window allowed for

constructing the project due to Fisheries restrictions and the potential for seasonal high flows. The Town of Barkhamsted is working with DEEP to request a one-year contract extension.

8. Adjourn: 7:30 pm