



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Minutes
Resource Stewardship subcommittee
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 4:30 PM
Zoom

Attendance: Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, R/S Subcommittee Chair), Representative), DEEP (Susan Peterson, Alternate), FRWA (Laura Hart, Representative), Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), Trout Unlimited (Jim Buchok, Representative)

1) Invasive Plant Management

Laura has been in contact with Jerry Milne, DEEP forester. He will submit a map to indicate specifically where invasive plant removal should be targeted in the area of West River Road near American Legion State Forest. The primary focus will be bittersweet.

The release of beetles to target HWA has been ongoing.

2) Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring is ongoing. In response to questions about where the loggers are, Laura indicated that water quality is monitored along many tributaries as well as in multiple spots along the Farmington River.

4) Land Protection/ Grants

No Land Protection grants have been received. Potential for Canton to request funds for an Natural Resources Inventory (NRI).

5) Culverts

A second letter of violation will be sent to the homeowner by the Army Corps. FRWA sent letters to the landowner. The committee asked if DEEP could contact the property owner again. Susan Peterson didn't know if DEEP has recently tried to contact the homeowner.

Farmington River Flow

It is expected that in the next few months USACE would begin to lower water levels in a way that was consistent with the way that had been done for decades prior to the dispute with MDC, as the hurricane season for them starts July 1st. Flows have been better with the interim agreement of additional flows.

West River Road Project:

The project will not meet the deadline set by OPM and no extension will be granted. The town needs to find other grant opportunities to continue the work.

Lower Collinsville Dam:

A question was asked during the May full committee meeting about the status of the Lower Collinsville Dam removal. Susan said she would try to get information. Since Matt Goclowski was not present, no additional information was added during the meeting. However, after the meeting Susan Peterson inquired about the status and learned that CT DEEP is working on various detailed planning aspects of the project. For example, substrate borings have been taken to determine riverbank stability, once the dam is removed and water levels (behind existing dam) are lowered. DEEP is also discussing access with adjacent property owners which will be needed for site work. An NDDDB study is starting due to species of concern both in the river and uplands area. A public meeting is planned soon (tentatively planned for July 2) to focus specifically on historical preservation aspects of the site.

It is anticipated that Dam removal will start in 2025.