



**FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

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[www.farmingtonriver.org](http://www.farmingtonriver.org)

**Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, July 20, 2020 7:00 pm**

**(Held Via Conference Call)**

**Attendance:** Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Committee Chair), Canton (Lans Perry, Secretary), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), FRWA (David Sinish, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, FRWA staff), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, RS Subcomm. Chair), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), Farmington Rivers Angler Association (Mark Swensen, Representative),

**Absent:** Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative), Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Committee Vice Chair), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate), New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), FRWA (Bill Dornbos, FRWA Executive Director, Alternate), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, FRCC Director)

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

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes of June 15, 2020 meeting were consensually approved.

**3. Treasurer’s Report:** Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s report dated 7/14/2020, which was presented by Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$21,166.50. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$1,194.64 of the total and was reduced to \$194.64 by the \$1,000 scholarship check issued during the month. \$59.84 from FRCC checking paid the telephone bill. Other expenditures included \$2,656.30 for invasives control; \$2,330.00 for printing; and \$7,760.26 for River Stewards and outreach. The checking account ending book balance was \$7,165.46 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund the ending total balance was \$7,360.10. The FY2020 NPS budgeted account balance per report was 75,000.00 on 7/14/2020. After discussion, the report was consensually approved. (Hart noted that after report was written Lacy directed that \$30,000 be advanced from NPS which FRWA had done so bank balance is now \$30,000 higher and NPS balance has dropped to \$45,000.)

**4. Subcommittee reports:**

**-Executive:** Bowler reminded all about planned 7-21-2020 11AM call with Mike Lambert and Col. Lewis about Satan’s Kingdom Tubing. Brief discussion by Sinish of Tubing Take Out area congestion. Behrens noted that Jim Warner of CT DEEP was dispatching some cleanup staff in mornings.

**-Resource/Stewardship:**

- Murdock led brief discussion of riverbank clearcut at Cottage Street in New Hartford noting that Town seems to consider matter largely closed. Swensen will get photos.

- Hart briefly discussed efforts to get water quality samples drawn and tested. Legacy labs all refuse outside samples. USGS East Hartford Lab agreed to do bacteriological testing. Alisa and Laura covering Massachusetts sampling while Mr. & Mrs. Sinish are running CT sampling efforts on Tuesdays.

## **-Education and Outreach:**

- **Satan's Kingdom Gorge Tubing:** Sinish noted his outreach to Canton Board of Selectmen was somewhat frustrating. BOS dropped tubing issue and are letting Canton and New Hartford Fire/EMS carry burden. Minimal Canton Police involvement despite observed heavy congestion at Take Out area.
- **FRCC annual report** available now and should be properly presented to each town's management .
- **Email Blast** planned by Hart.
- **Discussion of River Stewards activities.** Bastrzycki noted that FRCC Stewards counted 186 tubers per hour at the Gorge during peak hours (12PM – 3PM) last weekend. Peak prior weekend was 268/hr. User levels counted at Peoples included about 9 boats per hour and 28 tubers per hour. In addition to counts noted above, the Stewards participated in 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and helped Betsey with Invasives control work. They did license plate surveys showing about 85% CT followed by MA and NY and then by RI and VT. The Stewards made and posted videos to their website. A large tree fell into river about opposite the old fish hatchery. It covers about ¾ of the width of river and may pose a navigation hazard. Swensen noted tree is used as cover by fish already and serves a critical purpose. Gocłowski offered to follow up with advice on perhaps pulling it closer to shore to offer needed cover while not obstructing the river so much. Behrens and Gocłowski will talk to Jim Warner about the tree issue.
- **New River Trail Brochure** – 5,000 copies being printed now.
- **Scholarship Award** Press Release being developed.
- **Hart discussed FRWA Film Fest** – Planned for mid-November. Likely virtual which has worked well for other W+S river groups. When plans and budget are further along a grant likely will be requested.

**5. New Business/Other:** New Hartford Trail Issue dormant for now. No further comments.

## **6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:**

- **Colebrook** – Absent
- **Hartland:** Bowler out of town. No News.
- **Barkhamsted:** Stanclift Cove boat access closed. Must go to MDC launch to monitor/limit numbers.
- **New Hartford:** Covered already
- **Canton:** Bridge planned for November reinstall. Fishway/Turbine work at Collinsville Dam progressing.
- **DEEP:** COVID restricting usual surveys. Old Farms Bridge near done with improved canoe access.
- **FRWA:** Hart discussed Winsted Rain Garden outreach. Tight Budget. Water Quality prioritized.
- **MDC** - Colebrook is only receiving 13CFS per New Boston Gage versus typical 50CFS. Barkhamsted is at 93% capacity but input is only 1.7CFS. Nepaug inflow is about 4CFS. Still River is 10CFS. West Branch Reservoir (WBR) is mandated to release 50CFS minimum. Current release is about 250CFS which is unsustainable if drought continues. Lake McDonough gates closed and release by leakage is likely about 10-15CFS. (Swensen noted need for thermal cover at junction of East and West Branches and encouraged more water from East Branch. Gocłowski will inquire within DEEP on the issue.) Unionville gage is showing 300CFS of which WBR is likely 250. If WBR release dropped to 50CFS the change would be quite apparent downstream. DEEP has water in Colebrook that might be needed if flows are to be sustained. Parking still closed at Saville Dam due to problems with crowding and no social distancing. Beach Rock closure for same reasons plus graffiti outbreak.
- **NPS** – Lacy absent
- **FRAA**- Can't meet due to COVID and usually don't meet in peak season. Hope to meet in Fall.

**7. Next Meeting Dates: Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Mon. August 3 at 6:30 PM by phone  
Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday August 4 at 6:30 PM (866-423-6894 code 9815966)  
Full Committee: July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19**

**8. Adjourn :** 8:20PM adjournment.