



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
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Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2020 7:00 pm
(Held at the Pavilion at Peoples State Forest and Via Conference Call)

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Committee Chair), Canton (Lans Perry, Secretary), FRWA (David Sinish, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, RS Subcomm. Chair), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), Farmington Rivers Angler Association (Mark Swensen, Representative), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, FRCC Director)

Absent: Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate), Colebrook (Tom Stanton, Committee Vice Chair), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate), New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), FRWA (Laura Hart, Alternate),

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:11PM by Chairman Bowler

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes of July 20, 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 8/12/2020, which was presented by Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$7,360.10. The Pat Keener Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of the total and was unchanged. During the month \$30,000.00 was advanced from NPS and added to the FRCC checking balance. \$61.01 from FRCC checking paid the telephone bill. Other expenditures included \$1,087.50 for invasives control; \$1,450.00 for printing; \$5,000 to FRWA for water quality monitoring; \$112.31 to FRWA for web hosting services and \$3,120.00 for River Stewards. The checking account ending book balance was \$26,334.64 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund the ending total balance was \$26,529.28. The FY2020 NPS budgeted account balance per report was 45,000.00 on 8/12/2020. After discussion, the report was consensually approved.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Lacy cited possibility of current year budget adjustments and better definition of Laura Hart’s increased duties going forward. Lacy will schedule a call to discuss.

-Resource/Stewardship:

- Murdock gave brief review of usual issues from prior meetings. No big new developments.

- Lacy briefly discussed efforts by NPS and Princeton Hydro to agree on West River Road design plans to stabilize riverbank and solve undercutting problems. Barkhamsted hoping for added STEAP grant funding to complete the required work when the design is finally agreed upon.

-Education and Outreach:

- **Sinish summarized usual issues:** Quilt is at FRWA and is planned to go to Avon. New River Trail Brochure and Junior River Ranger handbooks are printed and at Squires closet. Open House might go virtual which might actually extend outreach versus meeting at Squires. W+S Filmfest planned as virtual too. More soon.
- **FRCC annual report** available now and should be properly presented to each town's management .
- **Satan's Kingdom Gorge Tubing:** Bastrzycki noted river usage and trash levels were up this season and many new users had no etiquette. No tubing concessionaire has led to more problems with trash and transport from take-out point back to launch site.
- **Discussion of River Stewards activities.** Stewards adapted to Covid situation and did great work. Two have departed to begin college classes. Shane will work one more week.
- **New Hartford Trail:** Town has advised trail consultants not to discuss matters outside of town events. Lacy discussed need for a forum to allow input from concerned parties and public-at-large.

5. New Business/Other: Bowler, Lacy, and Bastrzycki had meeting today with DEEP's Mike Lambert and Tony Russell and discussed need for and design of bilingual PSA and similar communication efforts to attempt to improve river etiquette and respect for land and water resources. Large gatherings causing big problems. Goodwill needs to be followed by enforcement. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding what activities are permitted on various DEEP managed lands. Water Access sites are for paddle-craft launching and fishing. No camping, fires, swimming are permitted. These sites are quite abused by many new river users. Further discussion by Lacy of need for more DEEP staff. Swensen discussed possibility of ESPN video work for outreach and possibly better kiosks to help educate new users upon arrival.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Colebrook** – Absent
- **Hartland:** No News.
- **Barkhamsted:** No News
- **New Hartford:** Covered already
- **Canton:** Bridge planned for November reinstall. Fishway/Turbine work at Collinsville Dam progressing.
- **DEEP:** High hopes as new Deputy Commissioner with great background began work today. Pete is very pleased that DEEP, MDC and FRPCo each allocated about 50CFS to sustain flow of about 150CFS.
- **FRWA:** Laura Hart will replace Bill Dornbos as FRWA's alternate to FRCC. Low flow and high temperatures in much of drainage. Still River looks milky. USGS East Hartford Lab doing weekly bacteriological testing through mid-September. Alisa and Laura covering Massachusetts sampling while Mr. & Mrs. Sinish are running CT weekly sampling efforts on Tuesdays.
- **MDC** - Extended drought may lead to even lower flows.
- **NPS** – Lacy expects new staff will be hired based at her Springfield office and ready to assist soon.
- **FRAA-** More glass in river. Better bottle bill might help. Hazardous trees over river. FRAA will get list of those on state land to DEEP.

**7. Next Meeting Dates: Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Mon. August 31 at 6:30 PM by phone
Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday September 1 at 6:30 PM (866-423-6894 code 9815966)
Full Committee: September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21.**

8. Adjourn : 8:34PM adjournment.