



**FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

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**DRAFT Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 21, 2021 6:00 pm**

**Hogback Dam**

**Attendance:** Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative, Committee Vice Chair and Roger Behrens, Alternate), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Representative, Committee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), Canton (Lans Perry, Representative, Committee Secretary, RS Subcomm. Chairman), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, Representative by phone), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative, NPS staff), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swenson, Representative).

**Absent:** Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate), New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative), Canton (Matt Vinick, Alternate), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff), CT DEEP (Pete Arrestad, Representative)

**1. Regular Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM** by Chairman Bowler

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes of May 17, 2021 meeting were consensually approved.

**3. Treasurer’s Report:** Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s Report dated 6/15/2021, which was presented by Treasurer Sinish. The beginning total balance was \$37,574.23 on 5/11/2021. The Pat Keener Scholarship Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of that total and was unchanged. On 6/3/21 \$37,500.00 was received as a transfer from NPS Cooperative Agreement Funds. \$14,626.81 was spent during the period. Two online payments totaling \$1,999.95 were made to pay costs incurred pursuing FRCC’s River Messaging campaign: \$1,800.00 went to LUMI and \$199.95 went to Network Solutions for domain name - website. \$574.00 was paid to Collinsville T-shirts for steward apparel. Four transfers were made to FRWA totaling \$12,052.86 to cover Water Quality 3 of 4 (\$3,875.00), Administration as Fiscal Agent (\$3,250). Project Assistance (\$3,000.00) and Culvert Surveys (\$1,927.86). The checking account ending book balance was \$60,252.78 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund yielded an ending total balance of \$60,447.42. The remaining FY2021 NPS CA budgeted account balance per report was \$75,000.00 on 6/15/2021. Consensually approved.

**4. Subcommittee reports:**

**-Executive:** Items covered elsewhere in agenda

**-Resource Stewardship:** See minutes of R+S meeting held 6/1/21 for detailed information.

- After a brief discussion Perry made a motion to appropriate \$5,000.00 for a grant to the Colebrook Land Conservancy as requested. Seconded by Sinish and approved unanimously.

- After a brief discussion Perry made a motion to appropriate up to \$10,000.00 for a grant to buy bugs for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid control project as requested with the specific provision that only as much as was required for actual purchases would be actually granted. Seconded by Murdock and approved unanimously.

- Letter regarding the possible New Hartford Skyway through Satan's Kingdom gorge will be discussed at a future meeting

**-Education and Outreach: See minutes of E+O meeting held 6/7/21 for detailed information.**

- Sinish discussed how pleased E+O was with the improvements LUMI has made so far and how much depth the website had. More details are needed from subject matter experts but the great possibilities for the future are readily apparent. To support the continuation of progress, Sinish made a motion to appropriate an additional \$3,000.00 for additional content, advertising, and website development work to improve our outreach effectiveness. E+O will determine specific expenditures to be made. Motion seconded by Perry and approved unanimously.

- Hart showed examples of great mapping work done by FRWA's GIS consultant Judah Shingleton. A discussion of the need for updates to FRCC maps was led by Sinish. Perry made a motion to appropriate \$750.00 for GIS work by FRWA to improve FRCC's maps and to make that content compatible with our online outreach efforts as requested. Seconded by Sinish and approved unanimously.

- Kiosk plans discussed. Behrens will get suppliers underway on the structures ASAP.

- 7 FRCC River Stewards have been hired. Training went well. Lots of postings complete. Kayaks were used and leak problems/defective paddles apparent. Possible need for better equipment next year. Collinsville Canoe & Kayak will allow stewards free use of their equipment near their shop. Continuing outreach through citizen stewards.

**5. New Business/Other:** Items previously discussed.

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

- **Colebrook:** Absent

- **Hartland:** Bowler's outreach to minimize salt use continues as does follow up on Hogback Road wetlands.

- **Barkhamsted:** Fourth of July parade soon. Discussions ongoing about repurposing Riverton Paper Mill site.

- **New Hartford:** Jones Mountain hemlocks are suffering adelgid attack. NHLT and Town working on Butler Trail.

- **MDC:** Noted Hogback Dam is a very pretty area.

- **Canton:** Collinsville Dam and Town Bridge work continues.

- **FRWA, River Steward, DEEP and NPS:** Nothing Additional

- **FRAA:** Swensen noted river traffic is way up. FRGA is working on poaching. Rest areas (beaches) are fast becoming potty areas and trash dumps, perhaps needed sanitary facilities should be added. Firewood scavenging and tree cutting by large groups of men traveling on kayaks and rafts is an ongoing problem. Soggy trails are overused leading to siltation and mud. River Clean Up Day was a great success and FRAA intends to make it a traditional annual event. East Branch flow to lower temperature is an FRAA concern.

**7. Next Meeting Dates:**

**Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday July 5, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom**

**Sub-Committee Resource and Stewardship – Tuesday July 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM Zoom**

**Full Committee: July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18.**

**8. Adjourn :** 6:58 PM adjournment.