



Farmington River Coordinating Committee

FRCC Monthly Meeting

7:00 PM, March 18, 2024

Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Alison Jassen, Matt Goclowski, Mario Santoro, Dan Bowler, Matt Vinick, Tom Stanton, Bill Coleman, Tom Carpenter, Roger Behrens, Jim Buchok, Torrey Collins, Stephan Bastryzcki, Jim Randazzo, Laura Hart, Dennis Quinn (guest speaker)

Called to order at 7:02PM

- Presentation from Dennis Quinn, Herpetologist (*watch recording for full presentation*)
 - Amphibian and Reptile Critical Habitat Analysis Upper Farmington River
 - Upper River is in great shape - evaluated and mapped habitat fragmentation and field investigations to identify high quality habitats and potential acquisitions
 - Dennis studies the whole Farmington River corridor
 - Roadways cause significant barriers to wildlife movement
 - Upper river has some of the least fragmented habitat in the state, and a lot of protected land
 - Can work with private land owners to manage habitat

- Approval of February, 2024 Minutes –

TREASURERS REPORT

Unobligated funds need to spend, about \$20,000 in RS and E&O each. Paid out grant funds from fy22-23 to Winchester Land Trust \$9,968 to help with the Cannavo Springs property; \$4,318.82 for the final grant funds for the CAES fungal diversity study; \$3,351.70 to FALPS for the David Leff Trail grant. All funds obligated from the prior fiscal year.

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMITTEE

Submitting workplans soon. In-person hybrid meeting for April.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

- Looking into new invasive plant management options and contractors.
- Hogback Rd culvert - site surveys soon
- West River Road bank stabilization project – timeline is a concern. Barkhamsted 1st selectman is up to date on the project, Town hired a new engineer. DEEP is waiting on permits to be submitted. May not happen within this timeframe.
- FVTU tree planting at Matthies Grove

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Working hard on all projects (Junior Ranger Books, Kiosks, Flow Information one-page flier)
- River Day program in September, will apply for a FRCC grant to be reviewed by next E&O grant.
- David Sinish boat launch ceremony planning, and planning for the kiosk install.
- River Stewards planning for 6 stewards.
- FALPS new trail opening April 9th.

New Business

Updates

Barkhamsted – The Riverton Market Place is going into the Hitchcock building with vendors and outdoor markets and Riverton Inn up for sale

Canton – DEEP lower Collinsville dam update – working with Eversource on the utilities and access on their property as the project moves forward. DEEP also working with wildlife and the NDDDB (Natural Diversity Database), looking to have the permits and design 90% done by the end of 2024 and another public meeting soon. Collins Co. planning stages.

Colebrook – Identified new lichens from the NDI, to be submitted to the state. Moss studies as well.

Hartland – Annual report updated, will be printed in June.

New Hartford – Alison: discussion about conservation commission starting up again

MDC – Reservoirs are full. Recent Colebrook flood stage, another high flow release over the Hogback spill way from Colebrook releases. Movement in D.C. discussion regarding the recent House Bill. Discussions between USACE and MDC are happening. Hoping to come up with interim ideas to manage the water. Running ideas pass the USACE in the next few weeks. Worried about recreation carrying capacity in the future. MDC trying to come up with a guide “cookbook” of when and how to release as it is a complicated role.

DEEP – DEEP would like to be involved in the MDC/USACE conversations. Instream flow study will help guide managing flows. Instream Flow council Matt attending and discussed the **USACE Sustainable Rivers Program** – involved in research on operations at dams and looking for opportunities to enhance ecological functions. Matt to reach out and ask about the Farmington River future management options.

NPS – not present

FRWA - none

FVTU – discussions with FRAA

FRAA – looking to hire an entomologist to do a survey in the upper river (yearly). Looking to buy loggers (temp).

River Stewards - none

Adjourn: 8:52 PM