

**THR FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Franklin Homestead**  
**December 8, 2011**

**Participants:** Bruce Bushey, Ashley Bachelder, Jim Cameron, Sue Clark, Martine Gates, Lucille Rainville, Paul Stanley, Heidi Britch-Valenta, Peter Benevento ( via phone conf)

The meeting commenced at 7:03PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** The meeting minutes of November were reviewed. Bruce Bushey made a motion to accept the minutes. Sue Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Martine Gates gave the Treasurer's Report. Sue Clark explained that cash flow was an issue due to the multiple grants that require all bills be paid first then allowed for reimbursement of funds. She requested a board approval of a 30 day no- interest loan of \$15,000. Peter Benevento made a motion to approve the signing of the loan. Bruce Bushey seconded the motion. Motion carried. Invoices totaling \$15,628 were already paid. Check book balance was \$1,392.72.

Bruce Bushey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Peter Benevento seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report:** Jim Cameron gave the President's report.

- **Septic Feasibility Study:** One more meeting of the committee will happen in January. The final report will be presented in the spring.
- **AmeriCorps:** a viable candidate has come forward for the AmeriCorps spot. She is moving to Vermont in Dec. An interview will be scheduled in late Dec or early Jan.
- **Hammond Shore:** Jim and Heidi had conducted a site visit to Hammond Shore with two representatives from the Dept of Labor. They are willing to proceed this month or to wait until the spring. The offer of a crew is good until August of 2012. The group discussed the merits of waiting until the spring versus trying to remove some sediment prior to the spring runoff flows. The consensus was that if it was possible to attempt the project now we should go forward. The funding for material will come from the LCBP Ag BMP remaining funds. It was determined that the 319 funds could not be used for this clean up because they are designated for pollution prevention.  
Jim asked Heidi to secure land owner permission to work on their lawns.
- **Meeting location-** The location of the meetings for the winter months was discussed. It was decided that the Homestead was the preferred location but was lacking wireless internet. The group asked the coordinator to investigate the possibility of wireless capability for the Homestead. Bruce Bushey made a motion to purchase the necessary equipment for the homestead to have internet if it is possible. Peter Benevento seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**BMP Report:** Paul Stanley gave a power point presentation on the final results of the Cover Crop program. Which highlighted pictures of the various fields and the equipment that had been used. The use of the custom operator to implement the process was considered an important step forward from previous years. The success of the interseeding process was also discussed at length. This was

especially beneficial at the Dewing fields to stabilize the soil following the sediment loading issue until the cover crop installation. Other highlights are as follows:

- Cover Crops: A total of 233 acres of farmland were cover cropped. 173 acres were implemented within the Lake Carmi Watershed and 60 acres were outside the watershed but within the boundaries of Franklin. Two other farms used the state program for reimbursement.
- A CREP proposal was presented to the Fregeau farm. No definite answer has been received yet.
- Wagner Road Construction: the road has been constructed and the bill has been paid.
- Ron Paradis contacted Jim Dewing for a definite answer to the buffer offer. Dewing has declined to use group funds to establish a buffer on the stream banks. He was willing to stone line the stream but he was not willing to observe the recommended buffer area.

**Coordinator's Report:** Heidi Britch-Valenta gave the Coordinator's Report.

- Heidi handed out 2011 overview sheets that described the status on various grants. The progress on each grant was discussed. Highpoints are as follows:
  - **Shoreline Buffers/Culverts:** All of the culvert work is completed and paid out. The remaining 2011 funds will be rolled over into the 2012 amount of \$22,000 to create an amended amount of \$25,680. An RFP for a landscaping consultant will be circulated to hire a qualified installer to complete the work.
  - BBR Grant & Tree Planting: An extension has been granted to complete the project in the fall of 2012.
  - LCBP –organizational support – AmeriCorps salary has been completed.
  - LCBP – Ag BMP all cover crops are completed, construction is completed. Remaining funds (\$3,000) will be used to purchase material for Hammond Shore Clean up project. An extension will be requested.
  - Peter had completed a request to the Watershed Grant program for \$15,000 to complete an assessment on Marsh Brook. This application will be submitted on Dec 9.
- Route 236 Culverts: Heidi has forwarded pictures of 236 culvert to the state to request assistance with this project.
- The Public Beach area stone was discussed again. The group discussed what the next steps there should be. Joe's pond was discussed as a new design that was attractive.
- A date for the agricultural informational meeting was discussed. Paul offered to check on the date of the St. Albans Coop meeting to avoid a conflict. The first choice was Feb 18 with the fall back date of Feb 25 selected.
- LCBP: The 2012 grant cycle for the Lake Champlain Basin Program has not opened yet. The LCBP is still awaiting information on the amount of funding they will receive.
- Heidi will work on the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence which is due on Jan 20<sup>th</sup>.
- New Board Member Packets were given to Martine. Jeff was not present to receive his.
- An annual report for the Town Report has been submitted to the Town. An entry into the Town Plan for the Septic Study and for the FWC has been submitted to the Planning Commission.
- The importance of volunteer hour logs was discussed. Sheets were distributed and electronic versions will be sent out.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Heidi Britch-Valenta, Acting Secretary

Next monthly meeting is January 12<sup>th</sup>

Septic Committee Meeting is January 5<sup>th</sup>

Public Beach Committee Meeting is January 19th