

THR FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
Franklin Homestead
November 10, 2011

Participants: Jim Cameron, Sue Clark, Martine Gates, Sue Stanley, Ron Paradis, Lucille Rainville, Paul Stanley, Jeff Teitelbaum, Heidi Britch-Valenta, Peter Benevento (via phone conf)

The meeting commenced at 7:03PM.

Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes of October 13, 2011 were reviewed. Sue Clark made a motion to accept the minutes. Martine Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Martine Gates gave the Treasurer's Report. Invoices totaling \$3,980.74 were paid this month. The checkbook balance is \$53.94.

Two more bills were presented for payment.

- Havreluk Construction for \$7,300 for the two culvert upgrades on Patton Shore Road (C&C grant) and for the completion of the agricultural access road (BMP grant)

- Magnan Custom Service for \$7,418.00 for the cover crop implementation and seed.

Sue Clark explained that the challenge in managing the grant dollars was that the bills must be paid and then submitted for reimbursement. This creates a cash shortage. An invoice has been sent to 319 for \$5,671.53 but not received yet.

A \$500 check from AllState Insurance was deposited and a check from the Town for the local contribution was expected for \$1,000. LCBP will be checked to see if bills must be paid first or if the bill can be submitted unpaid.

A third signer for the monthly warrants was requested in Peter Benevento's absence. Sue Stanley agreed to accept this role.

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

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

- **Election oversight:** Jim pointed out that in our annual meeting we had neglected to re-elect Sue Clark to a director's spot when she gave up the treasurer's role. Sue Stanley made a motion to elect Sue Clark as a director. Jeff Teitelbaum seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Septic Feasibility Study:** A public meeting was held Nov. 3rd at the Franklin Homestead to present the interim results of the septic study to date. A similar meeting will be held late spring/early summer for the Lake Carmi community. The meeting was attended by 10 people.
- **AmeriCorps:** At this time there are no other viable candidates. Heidi will communicate with AmeriCorps and ask to be put on the list again for next year. LCBP will also be notified that the remaining balance of grant funds (organization support grant) available to pay for this position may not be used.

- **Hammond Shore:** Jim reported on the efforts to remove excessive sediment deposits on the Hammond Shore. The letter discussed at the last meeting has been sent out. A budget has been submitted to ANR with a request for funding. No help has been forthcoming. Heidi has submitted a request to VT Dept of Labor for a free work crew to complete the project and this was awarded.

Other potential sources of money to purchase more filter bags, and rental of wetsuits and pumps were discussed. LCBP has granted permission to use the balance of the Agricultural BMP grant construction fund toward this project. This is money left over after the road construction came in under estimate with \$2,600 left over. Jeff Teitelbaum made a motion to use this money for the Hammond Shore Clean up. Ron Paradis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The 319 funding that has been set aside for the Dewing buffer on the northern section of Dewing Brook was discussed. This project is not likely to go forward. Ron Paradis will contact Dewing to see if there is still a possibility for this project to go forward. Sue Stanley made a motion that in the event Dewing does not want to work with the FWC to construct a stream buffer, then the \$2,200 will be used toward the Hammond Shore Clean up. Peter Benevento seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. (The possibility of this shift of funds was still being checked with ANR)

Jim asked Heidi to secure land owner permission to work on their lawns.

BMP Report: Paul Stanley gave an update on BMP activities.

- **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. The group celebrated the completion of the project in a year with weather that finally cooperated.
- 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 received.

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

- **Shoreline Buffers:** There is \$4000.00 remaining in the budget to improve shoreline buffers. A site visit with Amy Picotte, Grant Advisor to review the sites and plan for next year. A discussion about finishing shoreline projects in the winter has not received a response yet. An extension is likely.
FWC was awarded \$22,000 to continue shoreline buffers for 2012. A landscape designer will be hired to develop plans with land owners.
- **BBR Grant & Tree Planting:** An extension has been requested to complete the project in the fall of 2012.
- **Culverts:** the two projects on Patton Shore road have been completed and bills have been received.
The two projects on Westcott and Sandy Bay have not been completed.

- Mill Pond Dam: Sue Clark is still working to contact the State Dam expert to determine the history & operation of the Mill Pond Dam. Any changes to the Dewing Shore Outlet will impact greatly on the Dam and the board would like to gather information on the topic.
- Route 236 Culverts: Heidi has taken pictures but has not been able to forward them to the state yet. This is to work toward upgrading the seriously eroding culvert at Marsh Brook.
- The State has provided stone to stabilize the Public Beach area. The entire area is now covered with large white rip rap. It is unclear if the Town knew the State was coming to do this project. Improving communication with the state was discussed.
- An agricultural informational meeting was discussed. The group agreed this has been successful in the past and remains a good idea. A Feb date was planned. Potential speakers were discussed.
- 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.
- All State Insurance: our website coordinator, Kris Luce, has designated us as his non-profit mini-grant recipient. A \$500.00 grant was received. A thank you note was circulated.
- The AmeriCorps NCCC work crew application for the 2012 season has been submitted.
- Heidi will work on the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence which is due on Jan 20th.
- January membership drive letter was discussed. Help was requested. No one came forward.
- An acting secretary was requested while Peter is in Florida. No one came forward.
- New Board Member Packets: Packets have not been completed.- Sorry
- Conference calling is available to any board members that are unable to attend but wish to participate. Contact Heidi for more information.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM. The board then met in executive session to discuss an employee evaluation.

Respectfully submitted:

Heidi Britch-Valenta, Acting Secretary

Next monthly meeting is Dec 8th