

The Franklin Watershed Committee
Board of Directors Meeting
Franklin Homestead
Dec 9, 2010

Participants: David Breed, Lucille Rainville, Jim Cameron, Sue Clark, Paul Stanley, Polly Perkins, Heidi Valenta, Rolland Rainville, Dick Benton, and Peter Benevento via Skype

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm.

It should be noted that there were not enough board members present to make a quorum, and so no issues could be voted on.

Approval of minutes from November meeting

A few corrections were made to the minutes, but they could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum. They have been pushed back to the January meeting.

Treasurers Report

A check for reimbursement of 319 money was received for \$8,056.70. We also received a check from the Patton Shore Road Association for \$600 for their portion of the #40 culvert funds. There is \$22,760 left to spend from the 319 grant funds, minus the \$13,500 for culverts.

There was then a short discussion about how to spend the remaining money. It was suggested that we try to hold some of the money over into the next year for septic research and for fence installation on Dewing farm (or stream bed recovery). We need to pay Vic Giard for the septic survey services he has provided so far. The funds could be spent on a laptop and/or digital camera for the group. A need for additional stone for the Patton Shore Rd Culverts was identified.

Coordinators Report

- 319 grant is signed and approved, the funds are on their way. It is ok to submit the invoice for advance payment. A consumer affairs report was filed to get the \$229 reimbursed from Dun and Bradstreet for the DUNS #.
- The Public Beach Committee has yet to have a meeting yet, due to bad weather. Susan Warren and Alan May came to Franklin and looked at the site.
- Members were encouraged to forward ideas for speakers for upcoming meetings.
- Due to Parent Teacher conferences the school library is not available in March. The group chose to move back to the homestead for that date.
- A conversation was had with Julie Moore regarding the St Albans agriculture position, which still has yet to be filled. A January hire date is the goal. Julie is also helping us look into fixing culverts on the State Park Road #236.

- Interest was indicated in the Governors Award for Environmental Excellence; the application would be due Jan 5.
- The fence is no longer going in at the Dewing Farm, the contractor has dropped out. It was suggested that we use the fence money to finish fixing the brook on the North side of Dewing Rd. Mr. Dewing has not been answering the phone, so we will attempt to communicate by letter.
- Grants
 - LCBP has 2 grants awarded, \$2,683 for AmeriCorps salary and \$25,000 for agricultural best management practices. It was thought that we could spend that money on more nutrient management plans and a lunch held for farmers in order to get ideas on how to spend the grant money.
 - Applied for the Watershed Grant for \$15,000, we will know in January if we get those funds.
 - BBR grant with the town was applied for, we will find out end of December.
 - An application for a VYCC crew was submitted to get workers for the summer
- Finally, a presentation was given about the Patton Shore Rd culverts. The presentation highlighted a few areas that could still use more improvement with some stone or gravel.

Watershed Technician

The membership letter was passed around for review; it is going to be mailed out to the Grand List in January. It was determined that a mass mailing via the post office was not a viable option for the FWC and we will soon be purchasing stamps.

Information was provided regarding an idea to have signs placed at our most recent construction sites. We are going to use 'campaign style' signs to have next to current projects we have been working on, for example the Patton Shore Culverts would be a great place for them right now. It was noted this might be an appropriate area to spend some more of 319 money, the signs run \$50 a piece. This also brought up a discussion regarding designing a logo for the FWC, we could have it done professionally for around \$300. The idea to have a contest amongst local schools was favored, and it was considered that we might have the contest and some concrete logo designs to be voted on by the annual meeting.

Website design was also discussed. It was determined that having the website professionally done would cost around \$800-3000 according to estimates found with local companies. Jim Cameron has found a college student that is capable of the job and will do it for a lower rate (around \$500). George Raynak was brought up as a good person to potentially do the job; he has worked on many other websites around town. A sheet is going to be put together with all of the options and price ranges and sent out to the board via email.

An effort has been put forth to find historical pictures of the public beach, members of the historical society have been contacted, as well as the Campers Association. A few pictures have been found so far.

Cover Crop Update

Paul Stanley presented an educational powerpoint on this years cover crop effort. The slide show showed the machinery used, different planting techniques, and had some pictures demonstrating the benefits of cover crops as erosion control. He brought up the subject of drainage tile water sampling, research is being done at the Minor Institute and report should be available in a few months.

President Report

The resignation of board member David Breed was announced. He might be able to offer his services until June of next year, but will eventually be leaving the FWC. Septic planning was delayed until next month's meeting.

FWC was scheduled to present to the Selectboard before the December meeting, but it was pushed back to next month.

A board development discussion was delayed until next month, as well as by-law review.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly Perkins
Acting Secretary