

**THE FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**  
**The Franklin Homestead**  
**October 14, 2010**

**Participants:** Heidi Britch-Valenta, Jim Cameron, Sue Clark, David Breed, Ashley Batchelder, Polly Perkins, Michael Monahan, Peter Benevento.

The meeting commenced at 7:00PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 9, 2010 meeting were reviewed. There were no questions or corrections. (Note: The minutes were not formally accepted since a quorum of Board members was not present at this point in the meeting.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Sue Clark gave the Treasurer's Report. Invoices paid for the period totaled \$1833.44, Sec. 319 Grant money spent to date totaled \$23,555.26, Sec. 319 Grant money to be spent totals \$28,598.00, Sec. 319 Grant construction funds to be spent totals \$18,250.00 and the current checkbook balance is \$6,147.38. (Note: The Treasurer's Report was not formally accepted since a quorum of Board members was not present at this point in the meeting.)

A discussion was held relative to the payment of the AmeriCorps cash match. It was determined that the 2010 match for would be paid totally from Sec. 319 Grant funds and that 2010-2011 match would be paid from a LCBP Organizational Support Grant.

**Meeting Minutes:** It was decided that Polly Perkins would take the meeting minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

**Weed Report:** Pete Benevento summarized the Interim Report on Vegetation in Lake Carmi. The report was based on a comprehensive weed survey of the lake conducted by the Darrin Fresh Water Institute, Bolton Landing, NY. The survey was commissioned and paid for by the Lake Carmi Camper's Assoc. The survey identified twenty nine aquatic species and described the species richness in Lake Carmi as moderate. A final, more comprehensive report will be issued during the winter.

**Cover Crop Update:** Paul Stanley was unable to attend the meeting so no update was given. Polly Perkins will be working with Paul on future cover crop reports.

**Grants:** Three grant applications were submitted to the Clean & Clear Program for: a Septic System Feasibility Study, a Shoreline Buffer Project and Culvert Repair. Two additional grant applications will be submitted to the Lake Champlain Basin Program for: Organizational Support and Best Agricultural Management Practices.

**AmeriCorps Volunteer:** Polly Perkins was introduced as the new AmeriCorps Volunteer for the 2010-2011 periods. Polly will be working an average of twenty hours per week for the next eleven months. Potential projects for Polly include: Identifying State Park Rd. culverts to be repaired with GPS coordinates, Act 110 Best Management Practices for Road Maintenance,

Installation of Rip Rap at the newly installed culverts on Lake Rd. and preparing a GPS map of the lake tributaries sampled this year.

**Septic & Culvert Update:** Jim Cameron gave an update on the pending septic and culvert projects. Jim reported that he has received bids from three contractors to identify potential sites for community septic systems around the lake. After discussing the bids, Sue Clark made a motion to award Vic Girard, a licensed designer of septic systems, with a contract not to exceed \$1800.00 to perform the work and that an additional \$700.00 be spent for excavation of test holes. Pete Benevento seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jim then updated the group on two pending culvert projects on the Patton Shore. The culverts are identified as #44(Lothian) & #45(Tatro). Jim stated that he has received one bid from Wright Excavation and has met with two additional contractors who have not yet submitted their bids. Currently the spending plan allocates \$7700.00(\$4700 in Sec. 319 funds & \$3000.00 in SEP funds) for the Lothian culvert and \$4500.00 for the Tatro culvert. A discussion ensued as to the potential reallocation of available funds from other budget line items to cover the total cost to repair each culvert. David Breed made a motion that Jim be allowed to award the contract to repair the Lothian culvert to the lowest bidder. Sue Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed. Pete Benevento made a motion to allow Jim to award the contract to repair the Tatro culvert to the lowest bidder. Sue Clark seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Requesting the services of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp. to perform finishing work to the culverts was also discussed.

**Dewing Fence:** Installation of the fence on the Dewing farm was discussed. It was decided that despite the recent decision of the owner not to place animals in the field, the fence would still be erected to form a 30 ft. buffer to protect the stream. Pete Benevento made a motion to follow through with the original decision to install the fence. Sue Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**North End Beach:** Heidi Britch-Valenta gave an update on the Town of Franklin's potential acquisition of the north end beach. Heidi received a copy of a survey from the Franklin Selectboard. The selectboard intends to distribute the survey at the November general election. The survey is designed to obtain the views of the residents regarding the acquisition. Issues arising from the survey would then be researched and answered by the newly formed committee convened to study the issue. A vote on the acquisition would then take place on Town Meeting Day in March 2011.

**Bylaw Revisions:** Heidi presented a draft of revisions to the bylaws. Jim asked that everyone review the proposed revisions and be prepared to discuss them in detail at the November meeting.

**Coordinator's Report:** Heidi gave the Coordinator's Report.

1. The Sec. 319 Grant Agreement for 2011 has been signed and submitted.
2. A Burlington artist has expressed a desire to donate one of her works to the FWC. Heidi will attempt to ascertain the art's value.

3. The director listing for the Board Development Manual has been updated.
4. The \$3000.00 SEP Grant for the Lothian culvert repair must be spent by early December.
5. Copies of the RCAP Newsletter which included an article on the FWC were distributed.
6. The FWC Website needs updating to make it more user friendly. It is anticipated that a onetime cost of \$1000.00 would be necessary to complete the update. Heidi & Polly will research the issue further.

**Better Back Roads Grant:** The possibility of submitting a Better Back Roads Grant to complete the restoration of the Dewing Shore was discussed. Heidi & Polly will explore the feasibility of preparing and submitting the grant.

**Town Donation:** Heidi will prepare and submit a letter to the Town of Franklin regarding their annual donation to the FWC.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:05PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Peter Benevento, Secretary