

FRANKLIN WATERSHED COMMITTEE
Minutes for Monthly Public Meeting
June 10, 2009
Felco Room, Franklin Homestead

Present: Jim Cameron, Larry Myott, Sue Clark, Peter Benevento, Heidi Britch-Valenta David Breed, Dick Benton, Lucille Rainville, Carolyn Rhodes, Howard Rhodes, Pauline Favreau, Chris O'Shea, Brendan O'Shea, Paul Stanley, Ruth Anne Krayesky, Ron Paradis.

The meeting was called to order by Jim Cameron at 7:00PM. Additional agenda items were solicited and the business of the meeting commenced.

1. Letter of Concern. The first order of business was a letter of concern submitted by Lucille Rainville. The letter addressed several issues stated as follows:
 - a) The delay in issuing the results of last years water testing, specifically the P levels and the concern that the P levels were not accurate due to heavy rains. She also indicated the stream that runs through her property is not potentially harmful to the lake.
 - b) Who decides agenda items for the Monthly FWC meetings?
 - c) More should be done to build cooperation with land owners.
 - d) Soil samples should not be taken on her property without her permission or without her present.
 - e) The FWC held a secret meeting to discuss the development of a public septic system on her land and that the FWC was working on taking her land via eminent domain. Lucille wanted to know why the FWC did not address her directly on this matter.

Lucille's concerns were addressed as follow:

- a) Pete Benevento stated there was no intentional delay in issuing the results of the water testing. Brendan O'Shea stated that aerial photos of her land show the stream has been altered to make two ninety degree angles and definitely drains into the lake.
 - b) Jim Cameron and Heidi Britch Valenta plan the FWC monthly meeting agenda with input from others. Anyone may call Heidi to suggest agenda topics. Jim & Heidi use discretion in deciding time allotted to agenda items. This process can be changed if the majority desires. Jim added that no money is spent or are major decisions made without a lengthy public process.
 - c) Sue Clark stated that the FWC has made major efforts to reach out to farmers and landowners in Franklin. A major focus has been to make Sec. 319 grant money available to farmers. At no time was any Sec. 319 grant money considered for public septic systems. Heidi added that she has repeatedly thanked farmers for their assistance and cooperation and will continue to appropriately direct Sec. 319 grant money to them.
 - d) Sue stated that permission slips are sent to landowners when their land is designated for testing, sampling, etc. and that no action is taken unless a signed slip is received.
 - e) Jim stated that there never was a secret meeting to discuss the use of her land for a public septic system. Jim added that he is a small developer concerned with septic issues around Lake Carmi and that he has had conversations in passing about possible public septic sites near the lake. Chris O'Shea stated that he has also had similar conversations about community septic systems. He added that the FWC has no authority to take her land for such purposes.
2. Stream Assessments. Brendan O'Shea stated that his field work is almost completed and that he has mapped 38 culverts and one bridge. He will have 50 culverts categorized when completed and will rank them high, medium and low relative to their needed attention. He stated that only 3 of the 38 culverts assessed had headers and that this is not good. He stated headers would make a big difference in

preventing erosion. He will pick 15 to 20 of the culverts that are in dire need of repair. He will then need labor and machines to fix them. He stated that the services of the VT Youth Corp. are pending and that his final stream assessment report will be done next month. Brendan mentioned that would like to confer with Dick Benton, Paul Stanley and Pete Benevento to ensure we are all using the same names for the brooks.

3. Treasurer's Report. Sue Clark gave the Treasurer's report as follows: Regular Checking Acct. balance \$434.93, Money Market balance \$4,038.95, Sec. 319 Grant Money Expended \$13,434.72. Sue stated that \$5,000.00 had to be deposited to the Money Market fund to meet current bills and that funds will be tight until we receive reimbursement from the state. Sue also stated that since we did not need to spend as much grant money on aerators as originally anticipated we should re-evaluate the distribution of the remaining 319 grant funds. Brendan O'Shea stated he will submit the bill for his work tomorrow.
4. AmeriCorps. Pete Benevento stated that he has spoken to Martha Faber of the Vermont Commission on National & Community service. Ms. Faber stated that an AmeriCorp volunteer would require a match of up to \$5,000.00 for a full time position and that Joan Misek of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board AmeriCorp should be contacted for more information. Pete reported that he has Emailed Ms. Misek and has left her a telephone message and is waiting for a response. Jim Cameron stated that it is a good possibility that money from a Clean & Clear Grant can be used for the \$5,000.00 AmeriCorp match. Concern was raised that a full time volunteer would supplant the existing coordinator. Jim stated that was never the intent and that the volunteer would be assigned to assist the coordinator.
5. Lay Monitoring Program. Pete Benevento reported that at the Vt. Lake Seminar Sue Warren of VT DEC stated that money for the Lay Monitoring Program was included in the budget but they were not certain how the program would be funded. She stated that we should know something more definite in a few weeks.
6. VT Lake Seminar. Pete Benevento reported that the seminar included presentations on identifying and controlling invasive aquatic plants and species. A presentation was also made on town zoning options to protect lake Quality. Pete stated that the presentations included various ways to control and eliminate weeds. He suggested the FWC obtain a better understanding of the weed concentrations and locations in Lake Carmi and that we get more involved in the operation of the Weed Harvester. Chris O'Shea stated that an identification of the weeds in Lake Carmi had been completed and that an Anne Bove should be invited to speak about weed control. It was also mentioned that the Weed Harvester operates on Lake Carmi between June 15 and Sept. 15, that the harvester may only operate in certain areas and that a new person is operating the harvester this season. It was decided that the FWC should contact the Lake Carmi Camper's Assoc. for more information regarding the harvester. It was also suggested that the Lake Carmi weed problem be an agenda item for the next meeting.
7. Septic / Shoreline Survey. Heidi Britch Valenta reported that septic and shoreline surveys have been developed with the help of Tom Clark and Sue Warren and that the working group met June 4th to review the surveys. Sample surveys were also conducted on Camp Rd. As requested at the June 4th meeting, Heidi presented badges created for the survey volunteers. She also presented a letter which would be sent to all camp owners informing them of the upcoming surveys. The letter was reviewed and Dick Benton made a motion to accept the letter and send it out. Howard Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried. Heidi stated that she has contacted a local TV station that will do a segment on the survey. She intends to contact a radio station too. A second meeting of the working group will be scheduled to assign the camps to be surveyed. The surveys will be conducted during June & July.

8. Septic Outreach. Heidi Britch Valenta reported that a Septic Outreach Program will be conducted July 4th in conjunction with the Firemen's BBQ. A model septic system will be available for inspection and a demonstration will be conducted by Tim Lake. A watershed model will also be available for review and Seventh Generation non-phosphorous cleaners will be distributed. Heidi asked for volunteers to assist with the demonstration on July 4th between 4:30 and 7:00PM. A sign up sheet was distributed.
9. Raingarden Event. Heidi Britch Valenta reported that a Raingarden Demonstration will be held at the old log cabin in Franklin on July 18th. The demonstration will be conducted in conjunction with the Heritage Tour. An excavator is needed to remove/loosen very compacted soil and to spread topsoil and compost. The Franklin Tel. Co. will provide a backhoe to remove the compacted soil and to spread the top soil and compost. The digging and spreading will be done on July 15th @ 1:00PM. Heidi requested volunteers to assist with this effort and for plant donations. A sign-up sheet was distributed.
10. Agricultural Projects. Draft agreements for cover cropping and flex-incentives programs were distributed for comments.
11. Coordinator's Report. Coordinator Heidi Britch Valenta reported on the following:
 - a) She recently met Senator Leahy's outreach representative at a press conference.
 - b) Julie Moore of Clean & Clear cannot make it to our July 9th meeting alternative dates were discussed.
 - c) A Conservation Field Day is scheduled for the Fiske Farm on July 18th.
 - d) Heidi requested authorization to spend \$75.00 on 500 flyers for the Septic Outreach Program and 100 flyers for FWC membership. The group authorized the expenditure.
 - e) A second evaluation of the Swamp Rd. area with the Franklin Town Highway Foreman and Linda Boudette of Better Back Roads was conducted. Grant money for the Swamp Rd. project is on a default list. If another community does not use their grant money the money will be used for the Swamp Rd. project. If default money does not materialize we will apply for another grant in the fall.
 - f) A representative of the VT League of Cities & Towns will attend the August Franklin Planning Commission Meeting to discuss bylaw revision to improve environmental regulations.
 - g) The Franklin Town Hall has been booked to conduct the FWC Annual Meeting on August 13th.
 - h) The FWC will apply for volunteers pursuant to the Presidents Volunteer Initiative to be announced June 26th.
12. Septic Pump Out. Eligibility for the Septic Pump Out Program and the designation of Lake Carmi Camper Assoc. funds was discussed. Larry Myott made a motion that the pump out program should pay for any pump out even if one applicant owns two properties. Both properties should be covered. Anyone within the Lake Carmi Watershed is eligible for the program. Dick Benton seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
13. Poker Tournament. Jim Cameron briefly outlined his idea for a poker tournament with the proceeds to benefit the FWC. The tournament would be held in August. More details to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Peter Benevento, Secretary