

**Minutes of New Hartford Open Space Preservation Commission Special Meeting
Thursday, 3/28/2019, 4:00 p.m., Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library**

Members present: Jean Cronauer (Chairperson), Caren Ross, Madeline McClave, Karen Griswold-Nelson, Rusty Warner, Jean Darlington (Secretary).

Guests: Bill Dornbos (new Executive Director of the Farmington River Watershed Association – FRWA), Liz Lacy (Director of the Farmington River Coordinating Committee – FRCC), Aimee Petras (Education and Outreach Coordinator, FRWA), Alison Murdock (Chairperson, New Hartford Conservation Commission).

Introductions: Bill Dornbos introduced himself and we introduced ourselves to him. He is an attorney with conservation experience.

General Review and Discussion of Farmington River Protection and Wild and Scenic Designation:

- We discussed the importance of maintaining protections for the river.
- We discussed the important economic impact of the Farmington River as an attraction that brings visitors to our town. For example, Ms. Lacy said that anglers generate more revenue to local businesses than do hikers and bikers.
- Ms. Lacy and Ms. Petras reminded us that New Hartford is a member of the FRCC, and that the FRWA serves as its advocacy arm. The FRWA has the ability to weigh in with their legal expertise. They recommended that local citizens speak up and tell their elected officials how important river conservation is to the Town of New Hartford and to the Town's economic development. They also reminded us that Ms. Murdock is our local FRCC representative; New Hartford also needs an alternate.
- Ms. Lacy announced that the FRCC is going to host a summer concert series at the New Hartford Pavilion beside the river in New Hartford to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Farmington River's federal Wild and Scenic designation. The concerts will be held from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. on the following four Sundays: May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25. More details are available on the FRCC calendar (<http://www.farmingtonriver.org/index.php/calendar>).
- Ms. Lacy told us that, with changes that may occur with the MDC and its management of the Colebrook Dam, water release schemes and land ownership have the potential to change.

Social Meet and Greet: We exchanged contact information and agreed that it will be beneficial to work together more closely in the future.

Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Darlington, Secretary