

**The Franklin Watershed Committee
Minutes of March 22, 2018
4:10 P.M. FELCO Room, Franklin Homestead**

Call to Order

In Attendance:

Peter Benevento (on phone)

Marion Benevento (on phone)

Emily Porter Goff

Steve Comeau

Casey Robinson

Jared Willey

Tom Benton, St Albans Messenger

Hal Bill

Greg Tatro

Judith McLaughlin

Rob Cormier

Paul Stanley

Heather Murphy

Shaina Kasper

Approval of the minutes and treasurer's report

The minutes of 1/18/2018 and treasurer's reports for February and March were approved.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer provided the monthly reports for February and March. The total expenses for February were \$2,081.93 and the total expenses for March were \$1,592.56. During this period the FWC received grant reimbursements totaling \$16,761. and a donation from the Town of Franklin in the amount of \$5,000.00. The checkbook balance on March 15 was \$31,733.64.

The treasurer reported that the year end audit of the FWC books was completed by the town of Franklin with no change. In addition the Federal tax return for the FWC is being prepared and will be filed in April.

Coordinators Report

The coordinator reported on the Girl Scout program which was well received. She stated that we have received a grant for 6 outreach programs and that she is looking for corporate sponsorships to help fund additional programs. Additionally, she stated that we do not have a grant to cover her expenses for the work she does for the TMDL.

The coordinator is actively looking for 2 boat greeters and is hoping to find local residents to fill the positions.

The coordinator advised that we have approximately \$30,000. in grants.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The president stated that there has been water sampling for 11 years and we are looking to have spring sampling to determine what sediment is coming into the lake in the spring. We are also considering adding additional sampling sites to the 19 that are currently used.

He stated we will be getting an AmeriCorps volunteer for next year and that person will begin working for the FWC in August.

The president stated that we need an explanation of the runoff from the Dam and we should consider the possibility of hiring our own expert to conduct a survey. The coordinator will look into any potential grants that could pay for the survey.

A discussion was held concerning the new outlet which doesn't appear to be working properly. There appears to be different elevations which may be causing a problem. Greg Tatro will look into the issue.

The President stated that potential watershed projects are Marsh Brook and Toll Neighborhood Road.

Additionally he stated we need to keep pressure on our legislators concerning the water quality bills pending, especially the Franklin representatives.

Jared Willey

Willey provided information concerning the proposed aeration project including the types and cost of the upkeep of the project. He stated there is a lack of communication and information from the State.

Other Business

An informational conference call was held with Jill Heaps, attorney for the Vermont Law School, concerning the health and financial issues associated with the deterioration of the Lake. A discussion was held relative to potential actions to help with the crisis. Heaps stated she would be available to meet with board members at a future date.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,
Marion Benevento, Secretary, Treasurer