



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Personnel Sub-Committee

November 14, 2019

7:30AM

Main Meeting Room, Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

- 1) Designation of Regular and Alternate Roles for Members of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Management Committee
- 2) Approval of Minutes
 - a) November 4, 2019
 - b) October 15, 2019
- 3) 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule

Adjournment



Partnership Wild & Scenic: A Brief Description

The National Park Service's Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers program provides for exceptional rivers to be designated "Wild & Scenic", based on completion of a study by a committee composed of locally appointed representatives from the river towns and representatives from other stakeholder organizations. The Wild & Scenic Study was initiated locally. The towns that were involved in the Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study are Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury and Windsor. With designation, 1.1 miles of the Farmington river in Canton were added to the upper Farmington's designation, so Canton is no longer a part of the lower river.

To be considered "Wild & Scenic" under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, a river must have at least one Outstanding Resource Value (ORV), be it natural, cultural or recreational. Several research projects, funded by the National Park Service and conducted by the Study Committee, have helped establish five key areas in which the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook meet this standard: Geology, Water Quality, Biodiversity, Cultural Landscape and Recreation. Study area towns need to demonstrate support of the designation.

- Achieving the Wild & Scenic designation will help ensure steady funding for local projects to protect and enhance the river. An advisory management plan, developed by the Study Committee, will guide these and other river-related conservation efforts. Under the plan, private landowners continue to be the primary stewards of their property and towns continue to be responsible for regulating land use along the river. There are no federal mandates or new regulatory powers established and towns are not required to implement recommendations in the Management Plan.

Benefits of a Wild & Scenic Designation Include:

- Annual funding through the National Park Service for river conservation and enhancement projects related to the ORVs. (For a list of projects supported by the Farmington River Coordinating Committee [FRCC], the advisory management group on the upper river, see the enclosed page from their annual report.) There is no cost to towns.
- National Park Service technical assistance for projects.
- Enhanced status of the river. (This can be used to encourage tourism and economic development.)
- Establishment of an advisory management committee that considers the river as a whole and has locally appointed representatives from all the towns involved.

What a Wild & Scenic Designation Does Not Do:

- **Designation does not change land use regulations along the river.** The towns retain control of local land use along the river and brook. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act does not authorize the federal government to enact land use regulations for private lands along a designated river. The towns in our Study Area all have established certain provisions for land use on private land along the river, under the authority of State of Connecticut law. With designation, that local control will continue.
- **Designation will not deprive landowners of their land.** The Partnership Wild & Scenic program was designed to respect the patterns of private land ownership in the Northeast. When a river receives a Partnership Wild & Scenic River designation, the federal government actually loses its existing right to condemn land in the corridor. Nor can landowners be forced to sell their property. The Upper Farmington River was designated a Partnership Wild & Scenic River in 1994. No landowners on the Upper Farmington have lost their land because of the designation.
- **Designation would not prevent recreational uses of the river such as fishing and paddling.** There is nothing in the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act that requires a change in **fishing regulations**. The State of Connecticut will continue to be the regulatory authority. A benefit of a Wild & Scenic designation is that with the designation, some annual National Park Service funding that could be used to improve fish passage on the river. In regard to **paddling** and canoeing, the situation is similar. Because one of the ORVs for the lower Farmington and Salmon Brook is Recreation, National Park Service funding associated with a Wild & Scenic designation could be used to improve river access points for paddlers. Should recreational

activities on the river begin to degrade the river itself or the river banks, the advisory Management Committee could suggest remedies and potentially provide funding for improvements.

- **Designation has not prevented Canton from using its dam for hydropower.** Although the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act requires that designated rivers be free-flowing, segments of a river can be excluded from a Wild & Scenic designation. The lower Farmington already has an operating hydropower facility at Rainbow Dam in Windsor which is excluded from the designation.
- **Designation will not require funding from the town.** Towns don't pay anything for a Wild & Scenic Study or for the designation. On the other hand, the Wild & Scenic Study Committee has used National Park Service funding for several contracted studies that put money into the Connecticut economy. Now that the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are designated, we can expect annual funding from the National Park Service that could be spent on a wide variety of local river-related projects.
- **Designation will not prevent the town from doing necessary projects near the river, such as bridge replacement.** Because the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are designated Wild & Scenic, water resource projects that alter the flow of the river, or that are Federally funded, licensed or permitted will need to be reviewed by the National Park Service. In theory, on a designated river, the NPS has the authority to prohibit a project if it interferes with the flow of the river and has a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the river was designated. In practice, the NPS reviews projects and works with the town and the advisory management committee from the start of the project planning process to reach a project design that will be acceptable to the town and will protect the river. If the NPS used its authority to stop projects or to make them much more expensive, towns would have stopped agreeing to have rivers in their borders designated. (See below for Connecticut towns with Wild & Scenic rivers.)
- This protection from potentially adverse "federally assisted water projects" is central to all Wild & Scenic Rivers, and is the only "regulatory" aspect to the Act. The purpose is to maintain a natural river channel and protect sufficient flow and water quality to maintain identified Outstanding Resource Values. This does not mean that federally licensed or assisted projects are prohibited. To the contrary, projects such as waste water treatment permits (EPA permit); streambank stabilization projects (Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit); bridge replacement projects (ACOE permit); pipeline crossings (ACOE permit) take place on the Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers in the northeastern US. In most cases, existing standards and best management practices are in place to adequately address river protection. For example, permitting of the New Hartford Waste Water Treatment Plant was governed by existing standards of the Clean Water Act and State of Connecticut Water Quality Standards.
- **Designation does not impose new water quality standards on towns.** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in Connecticut (DEEP) currently enforces Federal Clean Water Act standards which include a "no degradation" requirement. The Farmington River is already held to a high standard by the DEEP. The Study Committee has obtained a letter from the DEEP stating that higher water quality standards would not result from a Wild & Scenic designation.

Other Connecticut Towns Have Streams Designated Wild & Scenic:

- In 1994, the Upper Farmington River in Connecticut was designated as a Partnership Wild & Scenic River. All or part of the river in **Colebrook, Hartland, Barkhamsted, New Hartford and Canton** have been designated Wild & Scenic. There are many examples of projects which have been supported in the upper river towns through the Farmington River Coordinating Committee, the advisory management committee on the upper river. These include funding a Natural Resource Inventory for the Town of Hartland and repainting a bridge in Barkhamsted from which paint was chipping off and falling into the river. There have not been problems arising from partnership with the Federal government.
- In May, 2008, the Eightmile River Watershed was designated Wild & Scenic, also under the Partnership model. The towns of **East Haddam, Lyme and Salem** are included in the designation area.

Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Town Endorsements

- All ten towns in the Study Area endorsed a Wild & Scenic designation for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook. With designation, 1.1 miles of river in Canton were added to the upper Farmington River's Wild and Scenic Area.



Simsbury, CT
933 Hopmeadow Street

Phone: (860) 658-3200

Volunteer Form

Good Government Starts with You

Date Submitted: July 26, 2019

Name: Stephen R McDonnell

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Party Affiliation: U

Current Occupation/Employer: Civil Engineer/Wengell, McDonnell & Costello, Inc.

Narrative: I am a registered Professional Engineer with over 44 years of civil engineering experience, primarily in water resources, dam engineering, water supply and wastewater disposal. I have a masters degree from uconn in environmental and civil engineering. i can spend adequate time to serve in this capacity.

Board(s) / Committee(s):



Simsbury, CT
933 Hopmeadow Street

Phone: (860) 658-3200

Volunteer Form

Good Government Starts with You

Date Submitted: July 1, 2019

Name: Sally S Rieger

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Party Affiliation: D

Current Occupation/Employer: Retired

Narrative: Education: MS in Biology, Central Connecticut State University

Experience: Taught basic biology, botany and ecology for 13 years at Central Connecticut State University. Chaired the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Study Committee from its start in 2007 until designation in March, 2019.

Time Available: Based on experience, I expect to spend 10 to 20 hours per week, sometimes more, sometimes less as the situation requires.

Desired Committee: I would like to serve as Simsbury's representative to the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic (management) Committee, which is not listed below

Board(s) / Committee(s):



Simsbury, CT
933 Hopmeadow Street

Phone: (860) 658-3200

Volunteer Form

Good Government Starts with You

Date Submitted: July 2, 2019

Name: Mike Ryan

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Party Affiliation: R

Current Occupation/Employer: Insurance Executive, Hanover Insurance

Narrative: I am interested in volunteering for the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Management Committee.

I have lived in Simsbury for over 40 years and canoe and fish the Farmington extensively.

I am an insurance executive with the Hanover Insurance Company. I am also a licensed attorney and practiced law before entering the insurance industry.

I am passionate about nature, the Farmington Valley and the Farmington River

Board(s) / Committee(s):



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Personnel Sub-Committee Special Meeting

Monday, November 4, 2019

Main Meeting Room, Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street

MINUTES - DRAFT

Members Present: Sean Askham, Chris Kelly and Eric Wellman

Staff Present: Melissa Appleby, Maria Capriola, Eric Gomes, Attorney Mike Harrington (by phone)

The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm. Mr. Askham made the motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly to enter into executive session, with staff members present attending. Motion passed unanimously.

1) Executive Session – Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B), Pending Claims (MPP-33825)

Mr. Askham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly to adjourn from Executive Session at 6:50pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Askham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Appleby
Deputy Town Manager



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Personnel Sub-Committee Special Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Main Meeting Room, Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street

MINUTES - DRAFT

Members Present: Sean Askham, Chris Kelly and Eric Wellman (by phone)

Staff Present: Melissa Appleby, Maria Capriola, Eric Gomes, Attorney Mike Harrington

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm. Mr. Kelly made the motion, seconded by Mr. Askham to enter into executive session, with staff members present attending. Motion passed unanimously.

1) Executive Session – Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B), Pending Claims (MPP-33822, MPP-33825, MPP- 33831)

Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Askham to adjourn from Executive Session at 5:35pm. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 10, 2019 were approved by consensus.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Appleby
Deputy Town Manager



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Maria E. Capriola - Town Manager

To: Ericka Butler, Town Clerk
Cc: Personnel Sub-Committee
From: Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager
Date: November 15, 2019
Re: Personnel Sub-Committee – 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule

At their meeting on November 14th the Personnel Sub-Committee agreed by consensus to establish a regular meeting schedule for 2020. Meetings will be held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:30 am.

Meeting dates are as follows:

January 9, 2020
February 13, 2020
March 12, 2020
April 9, 2020
May 14, 2020
June 11, 2020
July 9, 2020
August 13, 2020
September 10, 2020
October 8, 2020
November 12, 2020
December 10, 2020

The meetings will be held in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall, located at 933 Hopmeadow Street. Meetings will be properly noticed in accordance with FOIA requirements.