



**French River Connection Annual Meeting
April 8, 2009**

AGENDA

7:00 Call to Order

7:05 Introduction to the Black Tavern: Ed Bazinet

7:10 Minutes of January meeting: Elaine Parker

7:15 2009 YTD Treasurer's report: Sheila Veideman

7:20 2008 in review: Ken Parker

7:40 2009 activities: Ken Parker

7:55 Election of Directors

8:05 Guest Address: Colleen Abrams, President, Wachusett Greenways

8:30 Adjourn for refreshments and fellowship

The Board will meet for a few minutes after adjournment



Minutes of January meeting

2009 YTD Treasurer's report

**2008
FINANCIAL RESULTS**

<u>Opening Balance</u>	\$12,609
<u>Income</u>	
Memberships	\$2,250
Donations	\$480
Dam Trail Race (net)	\$1,462
Dark of the Moon (net)	\$299
Logo Gear (net)	\$21
Other	\$12
Interest	\$217
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,741
<u>Expenses</u>	
Administrative	\$1,260
Brochures	\$228
Water Quality Monitoring (net)	\$244
Beavers	\$199
Trails	\$192
Other	\$81
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,204
NET INCOME	\$2,537
<u>Ending Balance</u>	\$15,146

Cleanups

Webster Town Cleanup

Dudley Town Cleanup

Thompson "mop-up"



Water Quality Monitoring



Monitored 15 sites for 9 months
4 sites for temperature only for 4 months

After three years, baseline is becoming firmly established, including Mill Brook and Nancy Drive problem areas.



Beaver Discouragement

Protected more than 100 trees:

Perryville in Webster
South of Hill Street in Webster
East of Schofield Avenue in Dudley



What they do



What we do

Paddling and River Access



July French River Paddle



October Walking Weekends Paddle



New Boat Launch at Greenbrier



French River Greenway: The Perryville Trace





French River Greenway: French River Park



Fundraising



Dam Trail Race



Dark of the Moon



Logo gear

THANK YOU for 2008

Thanks to:

Fields Pond Foundation
Dudley Conservation Land Trust
Home Depot
The Last Green Valley
Army Corps of Engineers
The Craver Family
Bacon Engineering
National Grid
The National Park Service
Webster Office of Community Development
Nancy Healy



French River Day

**And especially to all of our Members, Donors,
and Volunteers**

2009 On-going Programs

Cleanups

town cleanups if possible
heavily dependent on water levels
emphasis on workdays on other projects

Water quality monitoring

TROLL and colorimeter monitoring underway
locations for temperature loggers are yet to be determined

Beaver discouragement

seeking donations of welded wire
initiated program with Boy scouts in Thompson

Trail maintenance

improve stormwater conditions on the Perryville Trace

Sustain our membership and donor income



Source to Sea

April 18, 8am: three mile paddle from Greenbrier Park, dedication of boat launch

April 26 9am: six mile paddle from Hodges to Webster North Village

May 2 10am: Perryville historic interpretation and one-mile Trace walk

Check the Last Green Valley website for other events

Other Events

April 22 5-8pm: Earth Day Expo at Edwards Emporium in Webster

May 16 7-11am: Bird walk starting at the Lodge Restaurant in Webster

August 8 8-11am: Dam Trail Race, Hodges Village

September TBD: Fourth Annual French River Day

Leovich Landing Fundraising

Goal: Raise \$70K by April 30, including fundraising costs and stewardship

Currently we have \$43K in cash and pledges including

- \$2K from the French River Connection**
- \$1K from Dudley Conservation Land Trust**
- \$1K from the Webster Lake Association**
- \$7K from individual and business donors**
- \$32K from a State Conservation Partnership grant**

Other potential sources:

- Town of Oxford**
- Baffin Foundation**
- Fields Pond Foundation**
- Walmart**
- Individual and Business donors**

Need to close by 30 June

Stewardship

- Cleanup**
- Sign**
- Views**
- Boat Launch**
- Path**

French River Park

What has to happen:

We have a license from the owner; we need a more durable arrangement in order to get funded

Budget: \$73K for construction and materials plus donated labor to:

- Install trail**
- Install furniture**
- Install plantings**

Our first potential funding source is leftover funds from Webster OCD projects.

Could happen this year!!

“Friendraising”

We have 57 members

We have a mailing list of 160

We need to get bigger and stronger to do the work we're promoting

Get an interested family member/friend to become a member or provide their email for the mailing list

In the Wings

Connect the Trace to the Quinebaug Valley Trail via Lower Perryville Road in Dudley

Integrate French River Park into a Riverwalk from the Railroad Museum to Peter Street, forming a downtown loop

Gain some rights to Collins Cove for a boat launch and natural area

Using Leovich Landing as an anchor, secure trail rights from Dudley Road to Charlton Street in Oxford

Election of Directors

Nominations from the floor

Vote for three



Colleen Abrams
President, Wachusett Greenways