

BURRILLVILLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
105 HARRISVILLE MAIN STREET
HARRISVILLE, RHODE ISLAND 02830

Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2023

Meeting Location: American Legion Post #17, 103 Harrisville Main Street, Harrisville, RI 02830

The meeting was called to order at 7:21pm by Chairperson Lapierre

Members Present: Commission Members present were Michael Lamoureux, Michael Longenbacker, Monique DeRoche, and Ron Lapierre

Members Absent: Roberta Lacey (Excused) and Jose Pedro (Excused)

Guests: Richard Dionne and Samantha Young

1) Accept November 2022 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Michael Lamoureux and seconded by Monique DeRoche to accept the minutes of the November 2022 meeting - passed unanimously. There was no December 2022 meeting. The Commission Chair discussed the 2023 meeting calendar dates and shared the dates with all members and will post them to the Secretary of State's website.

2) Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch:

1. Water Level Report and Canoe Launch area status. Jose Pedro was absent to give the report. Chairperson Lapierre explained a situation with the dam on December 30th when the dam was blocked with debris when the operator had opened the gate after a large amount of rainfall. DPW was checking the water level at the same time, and we requested them to visit the dam to remove the blockage. The DPW Director then scheduled a cleanup for the next day, December 31st, which was completed. The lake level was below the elevation of 584 and on its way to the level of 583.50. The DPW Department also opened the gate after the blockage was removed and noticed that the water no longer passed over or flooded over Wallum Lake Rd or South Shore Rd which was a good test since they installed new two larger diameter piping under South Shore Rd from a year earlier. Michael Lamoureux suggested if we can change the start to fill up the lake after March 1st and to include in the wording "or when after ice-out".

3) Nipmuc Trail: Discuss projects and status:

1. Maintenance and work details. The "No Hiking" signs have been removed on Jan 1st, 2023, by Chair Lapierre. The tree down across the white blazed trail has been cut up and removed. The Chairmen also cleaned up all debris that was found along the white blazed trail. One community service worker cleaned up both the Orange and Red blazed trails. The Red Blazed trail will still need a bog bridge built in one section of this trail.
2. Survey Report on the Northern boundary of Nipmuc. Two beaver dams have been built where Round Top Brook and Chockalog Brook meet just above the Nipmuc River. These beaver dams may need some further review by RIDEM. We found an old log cabin on the Nipmuc property which will be further reviewed, and we will need to speak to the adjacent property owners if they know who may have used it. There is a good amount of personal property found in this cabin which we will try to return to the respective property owner so we are hoping the adjacent property owners can help us with this. Regarding the cabin itself we will need to see what the town's recommendation on what to do with it.

4) Quarterly Conservation Programs: Discuss and schedule community presentations.

1. We have a Forest Management planning presentation scheduled for January 18, 2023, 7:00pm, Jesse M. Smith Library. A discussion was on the target audience who we think will be attending this meeting. We are hoping that at least one quarter of the target audience will attend this presentation, so if between 12-15 residents attend that would be good.
2. Future quarterly hikes in the Nipmuc area and guided by Martha Thoman are in the plans. Martha is a Naturalist and was the same contractor who built the first trail and the nature stations within the Nipmuc Conservation Area. A future meeting has been planned to meet with Martha on Saturday, January 28th at 9:00am and to

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review some seasonal dates and hikes with her. The Commission continued a discussion on some additional presentation ideas that would be priority topics that can be planned. Contacts and arrangements will be made by Michael Longenbacker and Samantha Young. Michael will come back to the next meeting to discuss further on these plans. Michael Longenbacker presented three receipts to be reimbursed for setting up the presentation for a total of \$158.12. Michael Lamoureux made a motion to approve the \$158.12 reimbursement and it was seconded by Monique DeRoche and all members passed the motion unanimously. A further discussion on approving a gas card of \$50 dollars for the Woodland presenter. Michael Lamoureux amended the motion to increase the total reimbursement amount plus the \$50 gas card for a total of \$208.12. The motion was seconded by Monique DeRoche and all members approved the motion.

5) Other properties work status and activity updates:

1. Lapham Farm Road Conservation Easement site updates. A discussion on the additional trail maintenance to be done at this site. Chairperson Lapierre installed "No Hunting" signs along the boundary. More planning to be done. Will need to notify the residents in the area regarding the Conservation land area and its usage. Trails will need to be built and signage to be added along with a trailhead kiosk installed. We discussed planning for a quiet opening for this site. Also, to note The Town Planner is aware of this project. Chairperson Lapierre asks for the reimbursement for the "No Hunting" signs in the amount of \$43.87 and trail marking spray paint of \$34.85 for a total \$78.72. Michael Longenbacker made a motion to approve \$78.72 for reimbursement with Monique DeRoche seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Union Pond Park site updates. The sale of this property has not been closed on; the sale is still pending per the Town Planner. The Commission will go in there to start the trail system planning once the property sale has been closed.

6) Rt. 102 Two Gateway Signs update: Holiday decorations were set up and taken down. We spent \$60 dollars for the garland and \$120 dollars on the wreaths that were approved at the November meeting. Decorations were set up at both the Glocester and N. Smithfield Route 102 gateway signs.

7) Town Conservation Plan (TCP) FY2023, (RIDEM Wildlife Action Plan (WAP)), needed for year 2025.

Subcommittee report. Michael Lamoureux reported on the updates and to set up a meeting with Ray Goff, Richard Dionne, and Bill Eccleston to review the data that needs to get into the plan. What is needed are the environmental assessments, studies that were done and to review each of them for additions to the plan.

8) Town Council, Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Ordinance Sub-Committee agendas and minutes.

Review and discuss agenda items. Three items discussed, a. Town Council executive session to review the land at Spring Lake where the ten camp sites are located which was under the management of the Parks and Recreation from the October 2022 meeting. Possibly, some walking trails could be made there for passive recreation for the local residents who live near this location. Chairperson Lapierre asked members of the commission to visit this site and to come up with ideas on how this site can be best utilized. The second is item b. A 22-unit subdivision planned off Mowry Road at the corner of Lapham Farm Road. RIDEM has not approved any permits to date for this location. We need to watch this site it seems like many units for a small land area. The third item is c. The building of a 3-bed home on Union Avenue across the street from the old DPW Town Barn. RIDEM has approved the plan but with many wetland restrictions so it will require some oversight. Discussions further led on the Affordable and on the Senior two housing developments sites within town that are in the planning phases. Currently, these two committees have been formed in town to review existing town owned properties for the placement of these two sites.

9) Fiscal 2023 Budget Report: Budget status and expense update. Plan budget for FY2024 in January. The Conservation commission will be the first group to present to the Budget Review Board for the 2024 Conservation Commission Budget. Michael Lamoureux will tentatively make the presentation for the Commission. The Chairmen has appropriated out all the line items that will be needed for 2024 budget. Currently, it's the same amount as last year that is being requested.

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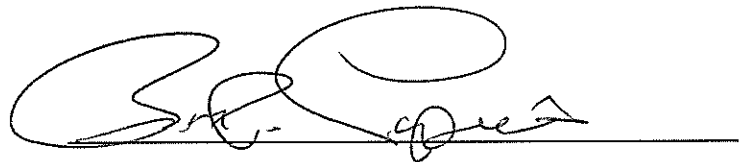
Michael Lamoureux recommended that we increase the budget due to the quarterly presentations expense increases and add expenses to cover these costs and to increase the office supplies budget from \$150 to \$350.

10) Volunteer for Conservation Commission Secretary. Monique DeRoche volunteered to accept the secretary position. Michael Lamoureux made a motion to appoint Monique DeRoche as the new secretary and Michael Longenbacker seconded the motion, there was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

11) Old Business: Conservation Commission's Patch design update and discussion. Members reviewed the three patch designs to select one of the designs. The designs proposed was one square design with two rounded designs. Members of the Commission voted on the patch to be used. Michael Longenbacker made a motion to select the circular round dark background patch and Michael Lamoureux seconded the motion and all members approved and the motion passed unanimously.

12) Mail: The only mail received was a Christmas card from the Senator Whitehouse family.

13) Adjournment: A motion was made by Michael Longenbacker and seconded by Michael Lamoureux and was approved by all members to adjourn the meeting at 9:31pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald P. Lapierre', is written over a horizontal line.

Ronald P. Lapierre, Chairperson / Date