

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM via Zoom by Chairperson Rich Dionne

Members Present: Rich Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Greg Devlin, Mike Lamourex, & Joe Pedro

Members Absent: Mike Scurka and Cameron Genereux, both excused

Guests: none

1) Approval of prior meeting's Minutes: Motion was made to accept the August meeting minutes

(Motion by Greg Devlin; Seconded by Leslie Bowen - passed unanimously)

2) Nipmuc Trail: After a couple of exploratory walks of the property, the commission plans to expand the Nipmuc Trail starting at the riverside kiosk and create a loop in the southerly direction, avoiding the more heavily vegetative areas.

Additional signage to address issues raised by property owner Mr. Jones, including "No Parking", "Clean Up After Your Dog", and "Trail Entrance", were discussed. We have metal blanks for signs, which will cost approximately \$25 each to have made into signs at East Coast Artisans, or \$10 each to purchase plastic corrugated signs. The commission tabled action to have signs made due to the town's spending freeze. Commission member Leslie Bowen will make a temporary sign to mark the trail entrance from the field into the woods, to immediately address the issue of visitors inadvertently walking off the right-of-way and into Mr. Jones' field.

On September 19th, Rich and Mike L plan to clear some of the debris that has accumulated on the trail due to recent storms.

Rich will put up the "No Hiking" signs by November 1st due to hunting during November and December. Due to the increased use of the property by hikers, Rich will also contact town hall about the feasibility of placing a notice in the Bargain Buyer informing residents to refrain from hiking on the property during the hunting period.

The commission discussed the use of tree stands used for hunting on the property. During walks exploratory walks of the property, commission members noticed a couple of tree stands have been left up after the hunting period. Neither had owner contact information attached. The commission determined that this information is pertinent, and that tree stands should not be left on the property after the hunting period has ended. The commission voted to set dates that tree stands can be erected on the property.

A motion was made to set the time limits for tree stands to be from October 15th - January 15th.

(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Mike Lamourex - passed unanimously)

Rich will request the following information be provided to individuals issued a permit from town hall to hunt on the property: Tree stands must be tagged with the owners Name and contact information, stands are temporary and can only be erected from October 15th - January 15th.

3) Gateway Welcome Sign/ Rt 102: Rich advised we send a letter to the Town Council regarding the commissions policy that no signs be erected at the Gateway property, and that we include this information in the next edition of the Burrillville Bugle.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Burrillville Town Council informing them of the commission's policy to not allow any sign be placed at the Gateway Welcome Sign location.

(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Greg Devlin - passed unanimously)

4) Wallum Lake Canoe Launch: Water level is 584.4, the lowest Joe has seen since tracking the level. Rich has checked with DEM and they do not have a copy of a sign water level agreement for the dam. It is possible one exists with another state agency as the lake is a water supply for Zambarano Hospital.

Joe noted there has been a lot of activity at the boat launch of both kayakers and swimmers. The "No Swimming" sign is posted. Next summer the commission will send a letter to the police department requesting they check the site for individuals using the launch for swimming, especially on hot days. Joe also noted there has been 1 mature eagle in the area.

5) Budget for 2021: The town budget for 2021 is incomplete due to the State Budget not being set. The Town has frozen all spending, except for those deemed an emergency. Any request must be made to Michael Woods, Town Manager.

6) Burrillville Bugle Fall Edition: Rich will have a reminder regarding the November 1st - December 31st "Hunting Only - No Hiking" policy for the Nipmuc Trail included, as well as the commissions policy of no signs on the Gateway Welcome Sign property.

7) Stationery for Commission: Rich noted that the commission periodically sends communication to various State and Local governments, as well as civic and private organizations. He has been making copies of an old version of commission stationery, which is looking deteriorated. He suggests the commission invest in new stationery. He has spoken with East Coast Artisans and received prices to have envelopes and letterhead printed. Once the budget is finalized, we will address the issue of placing an order with the funds allotted for office supplies.

8) Environmental Council of RI Dues: The Environmental Council of RI is an ally of the environment, lobbying at the state house. The dues for the council are \$60. However, the commission must table payment until the budget is approved.

9) Legion Hall Meetings: Rich has been notified that the hall is now alarmed. The commission stores a file cabinet at the hall containing records & supplies, which we need to access periodically. Rich will attend a Board of Administration meeting to discuss his access to the building. Rich will also contact the Town Clerk to determine what night the Zoom account is more available for our meetings, as the current 2nd Tuesday night of the month often has conflicts with other meetings.

10) Proposed Log Road Solar Project: Rich spoke with Ray Goff to gain clarity regarding our prior meeting discussion of this project. Ray noted the site overall to be suitable for the proposed project. The commission determined it would limit its recommendation to the environmental impact of the development, reserving the issue of variance verses zoning change to the appropriate boards. Based on the EFSB's findings that there was no need for the Invenergy Power Plant due to the availability of renewable energy, the commission determined it appropriate to support solar projects, with a low environmental impact, and on a case by case basis. The commission will send a letter to the planning board requesting they consider the Environmental Action Plan and address any issues raised by this project as it relates to conservation issues, including the impact it will have on the wildlife corridor, and the addition of vegetation and slope reduction to address erosion concerns.

11) Invoices/Mail: No Mail

Adjournment: 8:22 PM (motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Greg Devlin - passed unanimously)