

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairperson Rich Dionne

Members Present: Richard Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Mike Lamoureux, Joe Pedro, and Ron Lapierre

Members Absent: Roberta Lacey, David Landry

Guests: Brian Levesque – Douglas MA resident

- 1) **Approval of prior meeting's Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the November Minutes (Motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Mike Lamoureux – passed unanimously)
- 2) **Nipmuc Trail:** DEM notified Rich that the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) was completed on the property and fortunately, they did not trap any targeted species of concern. Rich will remove the "No Hiking" signs on January 1st, when hunting is no longer permitted on the property. Commission members discussed installation of markers in the parking area to aid in plowing.
- 3) **Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch:** The Dam webpage is in effect and information on the status of the dam has been posted to the page. Chairperson Dionne sent a letter to DEM and the Town of Douglas MA officials regarding information on lakefront property septic designs as they relate to the water level of the lake. Rich has since had contact with Carey at the Douglas State Forest and Kristin Harris from the Town of Douglas. He was given septic design information for several lakefront properties on the Douglas, MA side of the lake. Thus far, no reply has been received from RI DEM. Rich spoke with Joe Raymond, Burrillville Building Inspector, who stated he is not aware of any correlation between the lake levels and septic designs. Joe Pedro reported the lake is in the process of being lowered, with the current level at 584 and a target of 583.5. Rich has delivered the sign to DPW and will inform the commission when it has been installed. It is marked with the current winter (583.5) and summer (585.4) levels. Rich also noted that the dead trees in the area of the dam had been removed.
- 4) **Gateway Sign:** Rich and Roberta decorated the signs. Rich said he will take down the decorations the week after New Year's. It was also noted that the sign light is working.
- 5) **RI Wildlife Action Plan 2025:** Discussed scheduling a workshop in the next few months with Amanda Freitas and Mike Wood, Town Manager, to discuss expanding language in the Conservation Action Plan for 2025 that would add an extra layer of protection to certain parcels of land in the town. The goal is to determine what evidence we will need to provide, and do we have it at our disposal, in order to get these areas recognized.
- 6) **2022 Annual Meeting Schedule:** The 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule for the Burrillville Conservation Commission was set. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the American Legion #17 Post, 103 Harrisville Main Street Harrisville, RI.
- 7) **Other:** Attendance records of commission members for July – December were reviewed. Rich noted he will request level funding for the Conservation Commission during the next fiscal year.
- 8) **Invoices/Mail:** A Christmas card was received from Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

9) Adjournment: 8:05pm

(Motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Ron Lapierre – passed unanimously)