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

**Members Present:** Richard Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Mike Lamoureux, Ron Lapierre, & David Landry

**Members Absent:** Joe Pedro andRoberta Lacey

**Guests:** Jeff McCormick, Director of Public Works; South Shore Rd. residents Jennifer Miers & Mark Dore; and MA resident Brian Levesque

1. **Approval of prior meeting’s Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the December Minutes

(Motion made by Mike Lamoureux; Seconded by Ron Lapierre – passed unanimously)

1. **Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch:** The water level is 583.9. Rich has been in contact with Town Council President Don Fox to suggest a Workshop regarding the dam and water level concerns of the lake residents. After conferring with Town Manager Mike Wood, it was noted that there are still some issues to address prior to holding a workshop. The Town Manager and Jeff McCormick have received the questions of concern from the lake residents, and Jeff was in attendance to provide information and answer questions. Jeff stated the Water Elevation Placard has been installed on the dam based on the consultant/surveyor datum. He noted that the new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is currently being discussed. However, RIDEM has concerns about the impact lowering what has been the normal summer water level for many years and its effect on wetlands areas. Therefore, they advised the town to submit to them a Preliminary Determination Application (PDA), and may require a Freshwater Wetlands Permit to lower the target water levels. The MOA will be sign by RIDEM, MADCR, Zambarano Hospital and the Town of Burrillville, once any necessary RIDEM permitting is complete. The town has hired a consultant to provide information needed to submit the PDA, which should be submitted in approximately 3 weeks. Furthermore, DPW is investigating the current design for ways to make both technical and operational improvements. The consultant is currently doing a hydraulic analysis to determine design options to address current concerns. Jeff entertained questions and concerns from the guests in attendance. Jennifer Mier raised concern that the normal water level of the lake was lower prior to the current dam being installed, so any wetland considerations should take that into account. Mark Dore raised concern about a small dam in a wooded area closer to his house at the Land Trust property. Jeff took note of his concern and stated he would look at it.

1. **Nipmuc Trail:** Rich & Ron walked the trails and removed the “No Hiking” signs on 12/31. The trails are clear of debris. There was a total of 24 hunting permits issued during November and December: 16 Burrillville residents, 3 out of town RI residents, and 5 MA residents. In the spring the commission will remark the trails, and make a different, more gradual trail down to the river, as well as place a map of the trail in the kiosk that includes the mileage.
2. **Gateway Sign:** The holiday decorations have been taken down. The bows were saved for next year and are in the file cabinet.
3. **RI Wildlife Action Plan 2025:** Rich noted a meeting with Ray Goff, Amanda Freitas and Mike Lamoureux is scheduled for January 27th 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, and to have the Planning Board utilize the overlay as a tool in the planning process.
4. **Budget Board Meeting:** Rich will attend tomorrow night’s meeting and he will request level funding of $11,500 for next fiscal year
5. **Other:** Rich’s last meeting will be in March, so the commission will need to select a new Chairperson. Mike noted that Justin Allen from the IT department is researching cloud storage options for the commission.
6. **Invoices/Mail:** None
7. **Adjournment:**  8:31pm

(Motion made by Mike Lamoureux; seconded by Ron Lapierre – passed unanimously)