

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairperson

Members Present: Ron Lapierre, Mike Lamoureux, Leslie Bowen, Joe Pedro, David Landry, & Michael Longenbaker

Members Absent: Roberta Lacey (excused)

Guests: Rich Dionne

- 1) Approval of prior meeting's Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the March Minutes
(Motion made by Mike Lamoureux; Seconded by Joe Pedro – passed unanimously)
- 2) Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch:** Joe reported the water level is at 585.5, which is the desired summer level. He noted that the new water level marker appears to be set accurately based on the adjusted difference from the placement of the old marker. The commission is scheduled to conduct a site visit of the dam on April 28th at 6 PM. Chairman Lapierre noted 4 points regarding the dam:
 - 1) The Memo of Agreement is on pause until DEM approves the proposed changes to the seasonal water levels.
 - 2) The town has submitted the Preliminary Determination Application to DEM, as required by them, regarding the adjustment of the seasonal water levels.
 - 3) The hydraulic design and discharge study has been completed, and the town has received a corresponding 32 page document.
 - 4) Mitigation of potential flooding of Rt 100 - There are 2 options: One is to construct a channel bank, and the other is to upsize the Shore Road culvert.Joe believes that mitigating the potential flooding of Rt 100 is the most critical issue. He stated that during the 100 year flood situation of 2003, that while Wilsons Reservoir, which is downstream from the Wallum Lake dam, had significant flooding issues, the Wallum Lake Dam stayed closed. However, the properties around Wallum Lake did not experience any significant issues as a result. He further stated that he that due to the elevation of the dam as it relates to the properties around the lake, the water would overflow the dam before it would significantly flood any properties.
- 3) Nipmuc Trail:** Mike Lamoureux gave an update on the trail pamphlets. He has provided the information to be included in the pamphlet to East Coast Artisans. The cost of typesetting is \$200. Additionally, the cost of printing would be \$105 for 100, \$237.50 for 250, and \$425 for 500. The commission decided that 250 pamphlets would be sufficient to stock the trail information kiosk and to have extra available at any upcoming events.
A motion was made to spend up to \$440 on new pamphlets
(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by David Landry – passed unanimously)
- 4) Gateway Sign:** Ron reported that the light is working fine.
A motion was made to spend up to \$990 for the summer season maintenance by Esposito's Landscaping
(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Mike Lamoureux – passed unanimously)
- 5) Earth Day 2022:** Earth Day is April 23rd. The ad, which the Conservation Commission approve to pay for ¼ page at the last meeting, was in the Bargain Buyer today. The commission identified a site near Ocean State Power on Sherman Farm Rd that they will clean up on April 22nd, as part of Earth Day.

- 6) **Arbor Day:** The commission has purchased a tree from Central Nursery in the amount of \$245, which it will plant at Hero Park next to the police station on April 30th as part of Arbor Day. Next year the commission will consider planting a tree at the new Remington Park in Oakland. Ron has spoken with a couple of local school teachers, who are interested in planting a tree with their students as part of Arbor Day. Ron has been in contact with the Burrillville Land Trust, which is in the process of growing chestnut tree seedlings in an effort to reestablish them. They have agreed to provide the teachers with a few seedlings to plant. Ron also noted that the Land Trust is scheduled to plant their seedling this Thursday at a farm on Jackson School House Rd and are looking for volunteers to assist them.
- 7) **Watershed Watch:** We have received the invoice from URI for the 2022 water monitoring of Spring Lake in the amount of \$770. The commission discussed the importance of the monitoring which provided both current data, as well as an historical data and trends. The commission will vote on payment of the invoice at the next meeting.
- 8) **Town Conservation Plan 2022 (TCP) & RI DEM Wildlife Action Plan 2025 (WAP):** Chairman Lapierre requested setting up a subcommittee to work on developing the TCP, in conjunction with the WAP. This will provide a tool for the town to utilize in planning, development, and conservation efforts. The subcommittee will be made up of Mike Lamoureux, David Landry, and Joe Pedro. Ron noted that Ray Goff from Town Planning will also participate. The subcommittee intends to get input from various other conservation-oriented individuals and organizations. It is expected to take a couple of years to develop a comprehensive document.
- 9) **Family Fair:** Family Fair is June 18th, rain date June 25th. As in past years, the commission discussed getting pollinator plants to distribute to town residents. Esposito Landscaping has offered to acquire the plants for the commission. It is expected that we will be able to acquire about 150 plants for approximately \$1,200-1,500. The Nipmuc Trail pamphlets should be available by then to share with residents, as well.
- 10) **Other New Business:** The new budget has been received. Ron will determine where we stand with this year's budget and report to the commission at the next meeting. The town is in the process of acquiring property around Union Pond near Gonyea Park for a park. It would make a nice fishing area. Ron will be doing site visits of town acquired properties to decide best use, as it relates to conservation.
- 11) **Mail:** None
- 12) **Adjournment:** 8:50 pm

(Motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by David Landry – passed unanimously)

Ronald Lapierre, Chairperson