

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairperson

**Members Present:** Ron Lapierre, Mike Lamoureux, Leslie Bowen, Joe Pedro, and Roberta Lacey

**Members Absent:** Michael Longenbaker (excused) and David Landry (absent)

**Guests:** None

- 1) **Approval of April meeting's Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the Minutes  
(Motion made by Mike Lamoureux; Seconded by Roberta Lacey – passed unanimously)
- 2) **Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch:** Joe reported the water level is just below 585.5. Recently, lake residents have noted to Joe that the water level is lower for this time of year. Ron noted that due to the recent engineering survey, the placard was installed 3 inches lower than the old placard in order to be gauging an accurate read. Therefore, the summer water level will need to be maintained at the 585.8 mark on the new placard, until RI DEM approves any adjustment to the seasonal water levels. The commission will include this information on the webpage. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, commission members visited the dam/canoe launch area to observe Joe demonstrate how the dam mechanism functioned, review the new placard installation, and review the options being considered to address potential road flooding concerns. Joe also noted that kayaking/canoeing usage has picked up.
- 3) **Nipmuc Trail:** Mike Lamoureux shared a sample of the trail pamphlet with images and descriptions. He expects to have them ready for the Family Fair. A work party has been planned for Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> to divert the trail around the water bars to an area with a more gradual slope, as well as create a bog bridge.
- 4) **Gateway Sign:** Ron reported the light is still functioning. Payment was made to Esposito's Landscaping for the summer maintenance. Ron wants to get a survey of the plants and trees on the site. Roberta will conduct a survey and report back with recommendations. It was noted that there were 14 original trees planted at the site (13 from Central Nursery & 1 donated flowering tree) when the site was created. The trees are now matured to the point of creating a nice little forest. Additionally, Maureen from Roots and Shoots has added some plantings over the years.
- 5) **Earth Day:** Commission members Ron Lapierre, Jose Pedro, Roberta Murphy, Mike LongenBaker, and guest Rich Dionne picked up 9 bags of trash, a columbine system, and some car parts in the area of Ocean State Power along Sherman Farm Road.
- 6) **Arbor Day:** Commission members Ron Lapierre, David Landry, and Mike Longenbaker planted a 2 ½ diameter tree at the playground next to the police station. The police department has given outdoor water access to commission members, who are ensuring the tree is watered on a regular basis.
- 7) **Water Shed Watch:** The program monitors the water quality of Spring Lake by taking 6 water samples though out the season from various spots and depths around the lake.  
A motion was made to pay the invoice of \$700 to URI for the 2022 water sampling of Spring Lake  
(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Mike Lamoureux – passed unanimously)

- 8) Town Conservation Plan 2022 (TCP) & RI DEM Wildlife Action Plan 2025 (WAP):** Mike Lamoureux reported that the TCP subcommittee has no new information to report since the last commission meeting. He would like to formalize the next step for the subcommittee. It was noted that former commission member Rich Dionne would like to organize a workshop with the subcommittee and include Amanda Freitas from DEM, Scott Miller, who is involved with running similar programs for towns, and Bill Eccleston. The challenge is no other town in RI has built a plan like we are trying to create, where specific properties with a high conservation value are identified, thereby creating a priority list that town departments and officials can use as a reference. Mike Lamoureux noted that there is one town in NH that could possibly be used as a model.
- 9) Family Fair:** Discussed appropriations of funds to purchase plants.  
A motion was made to spend up to \$1,500 for the purchase of plants/seedlings to distribute to residents at the fair  
(Motion made by Mike Lamoureux; Seconded by Joe Pedro – passed unanimously)
- 10) Other New Business:** The RI Land Trust Council will host the Annual Land and Water Summit at URI on July 14 – 16<sup>th</sup>, with various workshops scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup>. Several commission members expressed interest in attending the event. Also, Ron noted that once the town creates a park at Union Pond, a railing will need to be installed at the back edge where there is about a 30 foot drop.
- 11) Mail:** None
- 12) Adjournment:** 8:27pm  
Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Roberta Lacey – passed unanimously)