

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

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

**Members Absent:** Michael Longenbaker - excused

**Guests:** none

- 1) **Approval of June meeting's Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the Minutes  
(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Mike Lamoureux – passed unanimously)
- 2) **Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch:** Joe reported the water level is 584.9, which Joe noted is the lowest it has been in a very long time and down 3 inches since the last meeting. Joe stated that the lake relies on the water table and the current dry conditions are contributing to the low water level. He stated the dam gate is only open enough to allow a trickle of water to maintain the stream after the dam. He has heard some concerns by lake residents regarding the low water level, but stated we need more rain to get the level up. Board members shared their concerns regarding adopting a lower summer water level target when drought conditions exist. Joe stated the commission should be cognizant of the effects this dry summer has had on the water level when drafting a new Memorandum of Agreement for the seasonal water levels. Ron shared information that Governor McKee recently signed a law titled “An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation – Dam Permits” which requires a dam to be operated in a manner consistent with historic use. Ron noted that the DEM Wetland application is still under review. He stated that DEM is 500 applications behind and is in the process of hiring more personnel to deal with the backlog. Ron also noted that Jeff McCormick of DPW hopes to see some movement on the status of the Rt 100 flood prevention options by the end of the month.
- 3) **Nipmuc Trail:** Ron and Mike Longenbaker started work on the Red Trail, which needs to be blazed, along with the trails from the second kiosk. Mike Lamoureux has the QR codes to post on the trail. The commission discussed placing a log book at the first kiosk, possibly in a mailbox for protection from the elements, so we can get a sense for the usage and feedback.
- 4) **Gateway Sign:** All the tree branches have been trimmed and the area cleared. David noted the sign is in fairly good shape with just a little chipping and possibly in need of a little caulking.
- 5) **Land & Water Summit:** Ron attended the summit on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, attending several workshops relevant to the interests of the commission (managing & protecting municipality property, land stewardship, acquiring land as a land trust, and fundraising resources). Members also discuss the desire to offer various classes at the site to the community.
- 6) **Water Shed Watch:** no update
- 7) **Town Conservation Plan 2022 (TCP) & RI DEM Wildlife Action Plan 2025 (WAP):** The subcommittee met and established a plan and approach to accomplish the objective for the town's plan. The Thompson CT plan was determined to be the most appropriate model on which to base the plan.

- 8) Planning Board, Zoning Board, & Ordinance Sub-Committee Agendas:** The commission reviewed the recent agendas & minutes. Discussion surrounded the Planning Board item involving the history of the major cluster subdivision at 202 Lapham Farm Road.
- 9) Budget Report:** The fiscal 2022 budget closed with \$165 remaining in the budget. 2023 has been level funded from last year.
- 10)**
- 11) Mail:** None
- 12) Adjournment:** 8:36 pm  
Motion made by David Landry; Seconded by Joe Pedro – passed unanimously)

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Ronald Lapierre, Chairperson