

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

Members Present: Ron Lapierre, Joe Pedro, Roberta Lacey, David Landry, and Michael Longenbaker

Members Absent: Michael Lamoureux and Leslie Bowen - excused

Guests: none

- 1) Approval of July meeting's Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the Minutes
(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Mike Longenbaker – passed unanimously)

2) Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch: Joe reported 584.4 currently at Wallum lake- 1 inch per week- Ron asked about if our water output is too much. Joe said it is the same level of water coming in at swampy area as he is letting out. Amount that it is open is not adversely affecting levels. Lowest it has been in 18 years per Joe. The situation with DEM and our agreement needs to be reviewed especially now that this has happened. We need to raise level of Wallum Lake so we wouldn't be in this shape in the future. Water Table is everything with this lake- mostly spring fed.

Rt. 100 Project- Ron has report from Jeff McCormick about Rt. 100 – 2- 18" pipes instead of single 12" pipe. If it ever does flood- it will allow much more flow through. Work should start this week on that project. September 9th is Jeff McCormick's last day with Town.

Discussion of Joe trying to monitor swimming at Wallum Lake Dam area- this is a launch site only- should not have people swimming there. Large sign as you pull up that states No Swimming. Joe mentioned that it's only the hot weather when people show up. Talk that area is kept clean, do not engage with any trash management- keep as is- "carry in carry out"

- 3) Nipmuc Trail:** Not much update- weather has been too hot. Good time possibly to get out there as the river is very low and work to clean up would be easy.

Ron confirmed August 25th 6pm presentation at Library Community Room. He will bring some refreshments, cases of water, box-o-joe, etc. Ron wants to put small ad in bargain buyer. Joe motioned for \$40.00 for Ad in Bargain Buyer, Mike Longenbaker seconded. All approved. Ron will get ad to BB by 8-17-22. Ron would like to see if a presentation like this could happen quarterly on different topics. Maybe if someone wants to do Forest Management- we could bring people in these particular fields could train local people about topics of interest. Roberta discussed her own experience with education about certain topics and how it has helped her.

General talk about fisher cats in the area and stories.

Ron was reviewing older survey reports. Mentioned there are "right of ways" along Sherman Farm Road that need to be marked and that adjacent landowners need to be notified that the area needs to be considered for access. Once a year we should go out and mark the areas, so people are aware. Even though the land is not ours, we still have "right of ways" to access.

- 4) Gateway Sign:** Ron wants to contact State of RI DOT to have them fill in the depressions around the trees. Ron will check with the state first before talking to Town DOT. Caulk the sign when someone can.

5) Water Shed Watch: Ron talked to Bruce, the guy who takes the samples, and if he wants to continue to handle the task. Bruce said he will continue to do the tests. He tests weekly, monthly. He does his own test as well as test that get sent out. Goes to different areas in the pond for samples, as well as depth column samples. Spring Lake should be monitored, and citizens trained about general landscaping chemicals and other things that can affect the quality of the lake water. Roberta asked if we could do some sort of pamphlet that could be sent out to the area, or possible online website with information. Roberta mentioned an educational event 5 years ago that was a success about fertilizers and the dangers near water.

Discussion of having the Conservation Commission take the lead on monitoring local environmental issues that we can help control. i.e. sprinklers during water bans at town property and schools, common area poison fertilizer chemicals. Dave suggested adding an item to the Agenda that has us review or check-in on current conditions and if any letters are needed to be sent to Town Manager.

6) Town Conservation Plan 2022 (TCP) & RI DEM Wildlife Action Plan 2025 (WAP): Dave and Joe gave update. Team has separate parts they are working on and progress is being made. They will continue to meet at their set schedule.

7) Planning Board, Zoning Board, & Ordinance Sub-Committee Agendas: Ron updated on new agenda for Planning Board and open plans for review. 2 solar farms set for plans- one is across from BMS on 102. Already open area. Multiple sub-divisions on the docket.

Talks to send letter to Zoning board regarding Case 2022-04 Robert Woods and Ava Woods stating our concern if they approve this case.

Roberta Motioned to send a letter to the zoning board stating our recommendations to Not consider that property for rural residential property due to the precedence it would set breaking the 40-acre rule. Seconded Mike Longenbaker. All Approved.

8) Budget Report: Ron will purchase reams of paper for Leslie and other office supplies needed. Possible get folding tables. Starting year with \$5k. Same amount for Stipends and office supplies. David Motioned to purchase two folding tables and pop-up tent and spend no more than \$350.00. Second by Joe Pedro. Approved by all.

9) Mail: Ron received mail from DEM - Cases to review

10) Adjournment:

Motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Mike Longenbaker – passed unanimously)

Ronald Lapierre, Chairperson