

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

**Members Present:** Rich Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Mike Lamoureux, & Gregg Devlin

**Members Absent:** Mike Scurka, Joe Pedro, and Cameron Genereux

**Guests:** none

**1) Approval of prior meeting's Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the September meeting minutes

(Motion by Mike Lamoureux; Seconded by Gregg Devlin - passed unanimously)

**2) Nipmuc Trail:** Rich put up the "Hunting Season - No Hiking" signs. The neighbor to the right of the right-of-way spoke with Rich, noting that there has been more use of the property over the last few months, and without any issues. Rich observed no litter, so users are keeping the area clean. A few benches at the classroom area have rotted. Repairs/replacement will hopefully be done in the spring. Ray Goff & Mike Woods mentioned to Rich that there may be trail grant funds available for which we could apply. Rich will share that info with the commission, once received. A Bargain Buyer ad was placed to inform the public of the hunting-no hiking period during Nov-Dec at the property. Per Rich's request, Vicki Martin, Town clerk, has added the hunting rules to include the tree stand installation period to the information handed out to hunters registering at the town hall. Rich has also contacted the person who edits the Burrillville Bugle to include the information in the next edition. Laken Ganoe, a URI PhD. eco-system student, spoke with Rich, requesting permission to install wildlife cameras on the property to study fisher cats. Members agreed it would be beneficial for her to do the study, and have her share her findings with the commission. For safety, as it is the hunting period, Rich will accompany Ms. Ganoe to the property on 11/18/20, midday, and both will wear daylight orange.

**3) Gateway Welcome Sign/ Rt 102:** A motion was made to request up to \$175 for holiday wreaths & greens to decorate the Welcome Signs, as in years past.

(Motion made by Gregg Devlin; Seconded by Mike Lamoureux - passed unanimously)

Rich will speak with Mike Woods, Town Manager to request approval for the expenditure. Rich also sent a letter to the Town Council informing them that in the interest of fairness, the commission's position regarding signs is: no signage of any kind is to be placed on the property by any individuals, departments, or groups (public or private).

**4) Wallum Lake Canoe Launch:** No report

**5) Proposed Log Road Solar Project:** Rich & Mike Lamoureux attended a meeting at the site which included the developer and residents of the area. One issue raised was that the new growth that has taken place since the gravel bank has been inactive, has mitigated the airborne sand from reaching surrounding property owners. Rich and Mike noted that the developer should work to increase the forested area to act as a buffer, as well as to provide erosion control. Rich sent a letter to the Planning Board on behalf of the commission with recommendations, and Ray Goff was forwarding a copy of the letter to the Zoning Board. Rich attended the meeting where the letter was entered into the record. He also recommended the Planning Board review the Wildlife Action Plan and Overlay, as it would pertain to this property.

**6) Annual Calendar:** Due to restrictions of in-person meetings and the availability of the town's Zoom account to hold meetings, the commission will move the 2021 monthly meetings to occur at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month. Leslie will post the 2021 Annual Calendar to the Secretary of State's website.

**7) Other Business:** Rich visited the new park in Oakland, noting the nice job the town did, including a rink and a pickle ball court. There is a walkway down to the river which is a bit long to haul a kayak, but it is paved, so a kayaker might find utilizing a wheeled kayak transporter helpful.

**8) Invoices/Mail:** No Mail

**9) Adjournment:** 7:52 PM (motion made by Leslie Bowen; seconded by Gregg Devlin - passed unanimously)