

Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes September 20, 2022

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

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

Members Absent: Michael Longenbaker - excused

Guests: none

1) Approval of August meeting's Minutes: Motion was made to accept the Minutes
(Motion made by David Landry; Seconded by Joe Pedro – passed unanimously)

2) Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch: Joe reported the water level at 584.8 and activity at the site is quieting down for the season. A tire was left in the parking lot which Joe will take to the Whipple Ave Recycle facility. The Memo of Agreement, DEM wetland application, and the hydraulic design/dam discharge options are all ongoing. The preventative work to mitigate flooding of Rt 100 has been completed. A long-term Annual Maintenance Plan still needs to be addressed. Jeff McCormick has retired as Director of Public Works and no permanent replacement to date. Ron will follow up with Jim Howard at the Public Works to request someone periodically check the dam for any blockage or maintenance issues in the interim.

3) Nipmuc Trail: Ron went out Friday and walked the Red Blaze trail down to the river. He added a few more blazes and caution tape at the old water bars steep incline area. He also cleared a few downed limbs on the trail. Ron also noted the classroom table legs have rotted and the table has fallen over. He recommends we pour 4 cement bases and anchor the bale to them. Mike recommended we add some water bars near the top of the ridge line and the second kiosk. Ron will get the “No Hiking/ Hunting in Progress” signs posted for November 1st – December 31st. There was also discussion about marking off the 4 right of ways into the property from Sherman Farm Rd, and to plan an exploration of the northern end of the property for any encroachments.

4) Buxton Pond Clean Up: Ron reported that “Zap the Blackstone” clean up of Buxton Street pond was a success. Many volunteers, including members of the Friends of the Blackstone, Rich Dionne, Rich Nolan, and Chris Toti joined Ron in utilizing 2 boats, a clam rake, and rope to remove 68 tires from the pond. Another clean-up will be needed as there are many more tires in the pond. A tire clean-up of Duck Pond during October or November was also discussed.

5) Union Pond Land: Ron informed the members that Mike Tremblay reached out to see if the commission would be interested in taking over the management of the Union Pond land. He noted the parcel consists of a cemetery with 3-4 of the largest monuments in Burrillville and abuts the Union Pond. He advised our role would be to periodically inspect it, build walking trails, and possibly have a wildlife expert identify any endangered or species of interest.

A motion was made to accept responsibilities as outlined in the Town's plan with condition of removal of any mention of any specific endangered species.

(Motion was made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Mike Lamoureux – passed unanimously)

6) Rt 102 Gateway Sign: Discussion ensued as to whether the commission should extend the maintained area down to the intersection with Victory Highway. David commented that any plan should not create

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a more cost to maintenance of the area and leaving it in more natural state with signage promoting conservation efforts of the commission would be more beneficial than a groomed area.

7) Watershed Watch Program: Ron reported that the last test at Spring Lake was performed on September 14th, with 20 tests this year at an average depth of 3.8 feet. The water temperature range this testing season has ranged from 57 degrees to 84 degrees, which was the high on July 22, and the oxygen levels have never gone too low. The September 14th temperature was 74. Ron initiated discussion as to whether the Conservation Commission would continue overseeing the testing of the lake after this season, or look for oversight to be assigned to another office or board. Ron noted on August 26th the Department of Health and DEM advised no contact with the water at Spring Lake due to the detection of Blue-Green algae. The advisory was lifted on September 9th.

8) Town Conservation Plan (TCP) FY2022/RIDEM Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) 2025: The subcommittee has created an outline for the plan and will share it with the commission for feedback prior to forwarding it to Ray Goff to review.

9) Planning Board, Zoning, & Ordinance Sub-committee: Ron spoke with Ray Goff regarding the Wood's subdivision proposal. He noted it needs a lot more work before plan can go forward. The members discussed the need for the conservation commission to reach out to the various boards to be an ally in the development approval process. Ron will reach out to the chairpersons of each board and offer assistance on conservation aspects of approval processes. The issue of a lack of there being someone to oversee Open Space enforcement was discussed.

10) 2022-2023 Budget Report: Ron purchased a pop-up tent and tables to be used at various events, spending a total of \$254.96 as previously approved. Ron questioned whether we wish to continue our membership of \$60 for the Environmental Council, or if we would rather consider membership in the Land Trust Council, which seems to have more to offer. Members will examine both and make a decision at a later date. The commission will get a price from Margaret at East Coast Artisans to create a map for the Nipmuc Trail kiosk. Ron and Roberta have each worked on an idea to create a Burrillville Conservation Commission patch for members to wear as identification when at events and on BCC property. They will bring them to the next meeting to share with members and get feedback.

11) Mail: None

12) Adjournment: 9:00pm

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

Ronald Lapierre, Chairperson