

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

Members Present: Rich Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Mike Lamourex, Greg Devlin, and Joe Pedro

Members Absent: Cameron Genereux

Guests: Ron Lapierre

1) Approval of the prior month Minutes: Motion was made to accept the February meeting minutes

(Motion made by Mike Lamourex; Seconded by Joe Pedro - passed unanimously)

2) Nipmuc Trail: Rich attended the Town Council meeting on March 10th to discuss current management and public recreational use of the properties managed by the Burrillville Conservation Commission. Martha Thoman is in the process of bringing the interpretive trail markers up to date, along with commission member Mike Lamourex, to include QR codes and both the scientific and common name of the vegetation. Rich and Mike presented that a smaller loop from the river kiosk would be the most feasible option to extend the trail at this time. Cameron cleared the big tree that fell across the trail during the most recent wind storm. Rich met with a biologist from DEM, who will be conducting the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) in RI. The survey monitors for invasive pests including weeds, insects and other invertebrate organisms. They will be setting traps soon. Rich reached out to Scott Buchanan, a herpetologist with RI DEM, to see if he had any interest in looking for state endangered species, such as turtles and snakes, at the Nipmuc site. He stated that they are currently looking for sites to survey for wood turtles and he will check out the Nipmuc site as a potential survey area. The outdoor classroom benches need repair and approximately 5 water bars to prevent erosion need to be installed. Rich will get the pricing for materials and it will be voted on at the next meeting. Commission members were asked to take note of any tree stands that may have been left in place on the property.

Motion was made to purchase 1 “No Parking This Side” sign and 1 “Trail Entrance” sign not to exceed \$100.

(Motion made by Greg Devlin; Seconded by Joe Pedro - passed unanimously)

Motion to purchase plaques for interpretive markers not to exceed \$250

(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Greg Devlin - passed unanimously)

Wallum Lake Canoe Launch: Joe Pedro reported the water level is 585.7 - perfect for this time of year. Fishing and kayaking are underway. The “No Swimming” sign is still up and not vandalized. A Good Samaritan painted over some graffiti at the dam. There is no longer a barrel for trash at the site. Two previous barrels have disappeared. Rich will check with the town barn to see if they may have removed them for some reason, and if they will be able to put a new one there for the summer. Rich will also contact the police department towards the end of May to request they periodically patrol the area for groups of swimmers, especially on hot days.

Gateway: The solar light for the sign is functioning properly

Motion was made to pay Esposito Landscaping \$990 for the annual maintenance of the site

(Motion made by Greg Devlin; Seconded by Mike Lamourex - passed unanimously)

Clear River Canoe Launch: The feasibility of continuing to maintain the site was discussed. The site sees limited use, the water tends to move fast, making launches and take outs tricky at times, and there is a new public access site down river at the new Oakland Park.

Motion was made to abandon the site, notify the Town Council, and have the Town Clerk's Office update Burrillville Conservation Commission page on the town's website

(Motion made by Mike Lamourex; Seconded by Joe Pedro - passed unanimously)

Watershed Watch Program: The program monitors the water of Spring Lake once per month for 6 months of the year. Samples are sent to the URI Cooperative, which monitors the nutrient levels.

Motion to fund the Spring Lake watershed monitoring in the amount of \$700

(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Greg Devlin - passed unanimously)

Earth Day: Motion was made to pay \$86 to pay for ¼ page ad in the Bargain Buyer for Earth Day event

(Motion made by Mike Lamourex; Seconded by Joe Pedro - passed unanimously)

Motion to pay \$100 to purchase raffle items for Earth Day event participants

(Motion made by Greg Devlin; Seconded by Joe Pedro - passed unanimously)

Arbor Day: The Board of Administration needs more information regarding the specifics of the tree that we would be planting.

Motion to purchase and plant a tree on the Board of Administration property adjacent to the A.T. Levy memorial - Tabled until a location can be determined

Reappointments: Joe Pedro, Leslie Bowen, and Greg Devlin have been reappointed to the commission

Wetlands Alterations Application: Rich visited the site for a wetlands alteration request located on Bethany Lane. Rich reported that it appeared the work had already been completed. He wrote a letter to RI DEM, notifying them that the work including dock and deck, had been completed, so if they have any further questions they should address the applicant.

Invoices/Mail: None

Adjournment: 8:08pm (Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Leslie Bowen - passed unanimously)