

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Chairperson Rich Dionne

Members Present: Rich Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Mike Lamoureux, Gregg Devlin, Joe Pedro, & Ron Lapierre

Members Absent: Cameron Genereux

Guests: Martha Thoman

- 1) Approval of prior meeting's Minutes: Motion was made to accept the April 2021 meeting minutes (Motion by Joe Pedro; seconded by Mike Lamoureux - passed unanimously)
- 2) New member Ron Lapierre was welcomed to the commission
- 3) Nipmuc Trail: A motion was made to spend up to \$250 for materials to repair the classroom benches and install water bars (Motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Mike Lamoureux – passed unanimously)

Martha Thoman, who helped develop the Nipmuc Trail in 2000, as well as establish the interpretive trail identification markers, spoke with the commission regarding her recent work, at the commissions request, to update the interpretive trail. Martha has generously offered her services for the update free of charge. Rich and Martha have visited the site to verify the accuracy of the current post locations. Some markers will need updating. It was suggested to lean more toward plant communities that may still be there in years to come, rather than a single plant species that may not. Martha also shared sample photos of the 26 plants that she suggests be identified by the markers, which she sourced from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. Photos of the plants will be included on the plaque at its corresponding post location, along with a description and a QR code that will pull up a copy of the paper brochure. Martha also suggested that we add more visual interest to the first kiosk at the entrance to the trail, possibly changing the posted information seasonally, as appropriate. We are still in search of more information on the Nipmuc tribe to include at the second kiosk.

The DEM biologist is still considering a walk of the site to search for endangered species. He shared with Rich "Don't Take Me Home" signs from DEM, which inform visitors to leave living creatures where they are found. Rich recommended that we post them at the kiosks.

Rich has visited the printer and proofread the signs, which were approved at the last meeting. He will pick up the finished signs soon.

4) Wallum Lake Canoe Launch: Joe reported the water level at 585.7. Rich requested trash cans from from DPW, but was denied. Rich is exploring other options, including "Carry In – Carry Out" signage. Rich will also contact the Burrillville Police Department to request that as of May 31st, they periodically patrol the area, as the warm weather can attract swimmers to the canoe launch.

5) Gateway Welcome Sign/ Rt 102: Espositos Landscaping has begun the seasonal maintenance.

6) Oakland Park: Rich visited with Andrea from Parks & Recreation to locate a spot to plant a tree. While a few potential spots were located, no decision was made. Rich notified the Board of Administration that we are looking at alternative planting sites to the Board of Administration's AT Levy site. The Arbor Day tree planting project is tabled until an alternative site is determined.

7) Rich spoke with Vicki at town hall and requested the Clear River Canoe Launch be taken off of the Conservation Commission webpage. Rich has removed the signage from the site.

8) Invoices/Mail Received: None

9) Adjournment: 8:30 PM (motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Ron Lapierre - passed unanimously)

Richard Dionne, Chairperson