

Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2021 – amended copy

(Underlined corrections are in sections 3 & 4)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairperson Richard Dionne

Members Present: Richard Dionne, Cameron Genereux (Via Zoom), Michael Lamoureux, Joe Pedro, & Ron Lapierre

Members Absent: Leslie Bowen, Gregg Devlin

- 1) Approval of prior meeting's Minutes: Motion was made to accept the May 2021 meeting minutes (Motion was made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Mike Lamoureux - passed unanimously).
- 2) Chairperson Richard Dionne received a letter of resignation to be effective July 1st 2021 from commission member Gregg Devlin. Richard read the letter to all members. In the letter Greg Devlin stated his pleasure on serving the commission but that he had other commitments that needed his time. Richard thought that it may be a good idea and will contact the screening sub-committee about during the interview process about the commitments for commission members which are more than just attending the monthly meetings and that there are other duties involved. Richard will write a letter to the screening subcommittee about the commitments involved. Richard thanked Greg for all the years that he has put into the Commission and that he believes he had attended every meeting during his time on the Commission.
- 3) On the Nipmuc trail, Joe, Cameron, and Richard took part in conducting some maintenance on the Nipmuc Trail. They prefabricated the wooden bench structures and reset the footings. They had a good working maintenance session and was good to be out on the trail as part of the commission. Richard would like to get back out there to complete the additional maintenance to apply some stain to the benches and install/replace the water bars for the erosion control closer to the river and to provide more safety on the trail, especially during any inclement weather. Richard Joe, and Cameron looked over where the water bars should go near the river and Richard has eight each 4 X 4 X 8 boards that need to be set in place there along with some stone and gravel. The Commission members planned for the next trail maintenance session to install the water bars and to take place on Saturday June 26th starting at 9:00 AM.

Michael Lamoureux provided a report on the new nature trail plant species marker signs and it is a "work in-progress" and that most of the signs have at least two plant species on them with one having a total of five plant species on it. Samples of the new signs were passed out to members to review. Michael stated that there should be twelve signs total and the cost will be \$420, plus a design setup fee which should come up to a total of \$500. Michael added that an amount of \$250 was already pre-approved and will be involved in June 2021 and that the balance will need to be approved at the July 2021 meeting and for the next budget year. Next step will be that Michael will get in touch with East Coast Artisans who is helping us with the marker/signs to get what she can get done up to the \$250 dollars amount. The Commission will end up getting archive copies of the digital images for all the marker/signs.

Richard reported that the traps for the insect species study by Rhode Island DEM have all been installed on the at the Conservation area. Richard did ask that the study coordinator place something on the kiosk, a notice stating there is a study in-progress in the conservation area. Richard will try to get out to the area to check on this notice.

Richard reported on the Fisher Cat Study conducted by the University Of Rhode Island (URI) that it had cancelled it since the game cameras installed at the conservation area did not show much activity so URI has decided to choose another site within Rhode Island to conduct this study.

Ron asked Richard what is the plan for the second Kiosk that is located in the conservation area and Richard stated that the second kiosk it was planned to add information about the Nipmuc Nation tribes. Ron asked if he

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could take on that task to reach out to the Nipmuc Nation to obtain some information that can be added to that kiosk and Richard confirmed and agreed yes it would be good to place the Nipmuc information on that kiosk.

Ron further asked about the second loop trail and where it should be planned from the second kiosk and if it should head south along the Nipmuc River and to possibly cross the river to come up north on the other side of the river and Richard stated that there may not be any other crossing points along the river unless there was a tree down across the river. Richard agreed that we should start the trail to the southern part of the river.

- 4) Joe Pedro reported on the Wallum Lake Dam and stated the dam control water level was presently at 585.75.

Richard provided a report about a resident's complaint from South Shore Road concerning the water level possibly being too high and are incorrect since the complaint mentioned the resident's yard as being saturated from the levels. Richard spoke to the town assistant manager about this issue and Richard suggested that since this is not the first time that this resident has complained about these levels that we get a professional survey be completed and done correctly concerning the water levels at Wallum Lake. The assistant to the town manager is to setup a meeting with the town manager the DPW Director and Richard to meet this week on the matter. Richard did review a document received from Joe Gonyea, the operator of the water treatment facility from the Zambarano State Hospital regarding the lake's water levels which is a memorandum of agreement between the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts but the document mentioned was never signed nor was it ever dated. Richard, further made a phone call to Ron Gagne from Rhode Island DEM concerning any documents on the Lake's water levels but Ron was unable to find any signed document copies on this. The document that Richard received from Joe Gonyea states that for the period from December to about March 15th annually that the dam control water levels should be set at 583.50 and for the period from around March 15th to September annually the dam control water levels should be set at 586. So with the meeting set with the town manager, Mike Wood, and DPW Director Jeff McCormick and Richard they will find out what will be the next steps to take.

On the DPW request for the trash barrels, Richard reported that he never heard back from the DPW Department regarding the installation of the trash barrel to be placed below the No Swimming sign at the canoe launch, however Joe had mentioned that a barrel had been installed there. Richard will call the DPW Department to thank them for the placement of this barrel.

- 5) Richard reported that the Gateway signs along Route 102 are looking very good and that the landscaper has visited and cleaned up the sites. Richard thought that possibly more flowers should be planted at them but we should wait and see what comes up and grows there first.

Richard reported for the annual Arbor Day tree planting planned for the Assembly building grounds or at the new Oakland Park that we will hold off for now on it and that we will need to see what our budget is for it.

- 6) Invoices/Mail. Richard called the town and there was none, however he did receive a letter from DEM about land for a new home to be built on Round Pond at Stag Head Dr. Richard wrote back a letter to DEM indicating that he thought the land was very wet based on what he had observed with the conditions at the time. Richard stated that DEM has provided specific requirements on the building site that the developer must follow.
- 7) Adjournment: 8:07 PM (A motion made by Joe Pedro; seconded by Ron Lapierre - passed unanimously)

Richard Dionne, Chairperson