

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairperson Rich Dionne

Members Present: Richard Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Mike Lamoureux, Joe Pedro, Ron Lapierre, and Roberta Lacey

Members Absent:

Guests: Mark Dore – South Shore Rd resident; Brian Levesque – Douglas MA resident

- 1) Approval of prior meeting's Minutes:** Motion was made to accept the September Minutes (Motion made by Mike Lamoureux; seconded by Joe Pedro – passed unanimously)
- 2)** Chairperson Rich Dionne requested a motion be made to move Agenda item #3 to be the next item discussed (Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Mike Lamoureux – passed unanimously)
- 3) Wallum Lake Dam/Canoe Launch:** Joe Pedro reported the water level is 585.1. Lake residents in attendance expressed concerns regarding the high water levels that occurred during the excessive rainfall of June, and inquired as to what is being done to ensure a similar situation does not reoccur. The residents specific concerns are 1) at what levels will the water be set during the summer and winter seasons, and when will these levels be initiated and 2) that a maintenance plan be put in place to ensure the dam is in proper working order. Rich stated that to address the water level concerns of the lake residents, the Conservation Commission worked with the town's Department of Public Works (DPW) to get an engineer survey of the dam elevations. That survey is complete and found the elevation placard on the dam should be located three inches lower. A new placard has been ordered and will be install to reflect an accurate measurement. Rich stated that while the current, unsigned memorandum of agreement states the seasonal levels will be adjusted beginning March 15 for summer and December 1st for winter. However, Rich noted that after discussing the water levels with Jeff McCormick, it was decided that the winter water levels would be initiated November 1st. Regarding dam maintenance, Rich stated the town officials and DPW will be coming up with a plan for scheduled maintenance of the dam. Rich noted he has contacted RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to initiate the next step: Discussing a new memorandum of agreement between the Town of Burrillville, Douglas State Forest, and the State of RI DEM and/or Zamborano Hospital. The memorandum will address appropriate water levels for the summer and winter seasons. The commission discussed communicating to DEM that the water levels set forth in the memorandum should take into account the elevations of residents' septic systems, as well as any impact the set water levels will have on the natural habitat.
- 4) Nipmuc Trail:** Rich has the new signs: "Don't Take Me Home" and the parking sign. The "Don't Take Me Home" sign will be placed in the first kiosk, and the parking sign will replace the one that went missing. Approximately 10 town hall and town officials have expressed interest in a guided walk of the trail on October 29th, weather permitting. Rich will be putting up the "Hunting – No Hiking" signs for November 1st until December 31st. Ron will map out the original loop and the new loop to get the distance and print out of the trails.
- 5) Gateway Sign:** Ron has been working to get the light working. He stated the panel for the light is fine. The battery and/or the whole light needs to be replaced. He is researching to get the appropriate parts to do the repair.

A motion was made to spend \$250 for holiday decorations to purchase 2 30' garlands and 7 wreaths for the "Welcome to Burrillville" signs.

(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Ron Lapierre – passed unanimously)

- 6) **Conservation Map Opportunities Workshop:** The workshop scheduled for October 14th will be rescheduled.
- 7) **Invoices/Mail Received:** A letter was received from RI DEM relating to a wetlands variance for a 3 bedroom dwelling on property located at plat 158 lots 14, 15, and 16. Rich will put together a reply, which is due October 25th.
- 8) **Other:** Ron will follow up with the town's IT person regarding Town Manager Mike Wood's request that the commission set up a website for the Wallum Lake Dam location.
- 9) **Adjournment:** 8:41 PM
(Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Ron Lapierre – passed unanimously)

Richard Dionne, Chairperson