

Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2019

Members Present:

Rich Dionne, Joe Lavallee, Joe Pedro, Leslie Bowen, Greg Devlin

Members Absent:

Mike Scurka (excused)

Secretary's Report: Voted to accept the minutes of the December meeting.
(Motion by Greg Devlin; Seconded by Joe P - passed unanimously)

Old Business:

Nipmuc Trail: Greg will contact Newt regarding scout project and invite them to the March meeting. Rich noted all looked well at the site when he removed the "No Hiking – Hunting season" signs on January 1st. Twenty seven (27) hunting permits were issued this season.

Wallum Lake Canoe Launch:

Water level is 585.0. The ice is finally thickening. No activity at the canoe launch, and the eagles have moved on to open water. Douglas, MA solar farm meeting was cancelled, so Joe P will attend the next scheduled meeting to get information on the proposed project & report back to the commission.

Gateway: The light is working. In the spring we can expect the invoice from Roots N Shoots for the upcoming seasonal maintenance.

Clear River Canoe Launch: No report

Invenergy Clear River Energy:

- Jerry Elmer of CLF has done a convincing job arguing the lack of need for the power plant.
- Scott Comings made a good argument for conservation of the "pinch point" area, where the power plant is proposed.
- Anthony Zemba has been hired by the town as a key witness on biodiversity, and will testify at the EFSB hearing next month.
- EFSB Reform Legislation (H-5446) has been submitted for consideration in the upcoming session.
- Rich had a meeting with the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff. He pointed out that there are shortcomings in some of the State Wide Planning advisory opinions, and requested as much environmental consideration be given as possible, prior to a decision on the power plant. The Deputy Chief of Staff conveyed that the Governor will not interfere with the process.

Laginestra Property: No Report

New Business

Miscellaneous:

- Reviewed procedural guidelines. Agenda items need to be submitted to the chairperson by 12 pm, 7 calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting date. Discussed need to elect a new chairperson, appoint a vice chairperson, and a secretary at the next meeting.

Public Comments & Welfare: None

Invoices/Mail:

- A letter was received from Northern RI Conservation District requesting \$1,000 contribution, or any amount possible, to help support programming. Voted to table the request until the end of the fiscal year.

(Motion was made by Greg Devlin; Seconded by Joe P. (passed unanimously)

ADJOURNMENT: 8:10 PM

(Motion by Greg Devlin; Seconded by Joe P. – passed unanimously)