

Members Present:

Rich Dionne, Mike Scurka, Joe Lavallee, Joe Pedro, Leslie Bowen, Greg Devlin, and Cameron Genereux

Members Absent: none

Secretary's Report: Voted to accept the minutes of the March meeting.

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

Special Business: New member Cameron Genereux was welcomed to the commission

Public Comments & Welfare: None

Old Business:

Nipmuc Trail: No report on the Boy Scout project. A trail clean-up by the commission members is scheduled for April 27th at 9 am. An invitation will be extended to the Boy Scout to attend the clean-up.

Wallum Lake Canoe Launch: Water level is 585.1, which is where it should be this time of year. It has been quiet at the site. The last sighting of an eagle occurred just before the ice broke up. Two otters have also been seen in the area.

Gateway: Rich has been in contact with Lee Menard, Master Gardener, regarding the Blackstone in Bloom contest. She took soil samples to be tested at URI, and suggested mowing the area, then rototill and top it with compost. The area consists of approximately 5,000 square feet and will require approximately 90+ cubic yards of compost. Greg noted that the Lions Club is interested in partnering with us on the contest.

Clear River Canoe Launch: The Animal Control site is still under construction. We will evaluate the site at a later date.

Invenergy Clear River Energy: The hearings have concluded at the EFSB. Attorneys now have 45 days to submit final briefs. Rich noted highlights of the hearings were compelling testimony from: Jason Ostenskowski regarding the detriment to the uplands & forest, which unfortunately are not regulated. Only air quality & wetlands are regulated areas; The Nature Conservancy is very interested in protecting the area due to it being a pinch point in the contiguous forest. Anthony Zuma and DEM officials also gave compelling testimony to oppose the project.

Laginestra Property: The commission will try to walk the site in May. Previous scheduled walks were cancelled due to the weather.

Earth Day Clean Up Event: The event is April 27th. Rich will get the raffle prizes to donate, and he has submitted to pay for 1 Bargain Buyer ad for the event, which were previously voted on and approved.

Arbor Day Event: April 26th we will plant a tree at the Gonyea Park in Pascoag. Rich met with Public Works and a planting spot was chosen near the picnic table. Rich will go to Central Nursery to select a tree, possibly a cherry tree.

New Business

Land & Water Summit: David Vallee from NOAA gave interesting presentation on effects of climate change on local waterways and the effects on development. A workshop on RI's SCORP update, which is in progress, discussed SCORPs purposes, grant program, and the online survey map. The Free Mapping Tools for Conservation Property & Easement Management workshop provided information & resources to utilize in monitoring properties over time.

Miscellaneous: Rich confirmed that we are up to date with our invoices for Watershed Watch for the monitoring of Spring Lake water quality by URI.

Invoices/Mail: A motion was made and approved to make payment of an invoice in the amount of \$55 to Leslie Bowen for the registration fee for the Land & Water Summit.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 8:35 PM

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