

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Richard Dionne, Chairperson.

Members Present: Rich Dionne, Mike Lamoureux, Leslie Bowen, Cameron Genereux, and Mike Scurka

Members Absent: Joe Pedro (excused), and Greg Devlin (excused)

Guests: None

1) Approval of prior meeting Minutes: A motion was made and voted on to accept the Minutes of the January 14th meeting.

(Motion by Cameron Genereux; Seconded by Mike Lamoureux - passed unanimously)

2) Nipmuc Trail: On January 25th, BCC members (Rich, Cameron, Leslie, and Mike L) walked the trail. Rich placed a few more trail markers to better delineate the trail. Cameron, Mike, & Leslie explored the southern part of the property to determine the viability of expanding the current trail. Evidence of brook trout, deer, and beavers were observed, with boggy conditions covering a significant portion of the area explored. Another walk has been planned for March to explore the northern portion of the property. The goal is to locate areas to expand the trail that will have the least impact on the natural habitat. During the walk, 2 tree stands were found on the property. While hunting is allowed during the months of November and December on the property, tree stands are not to be left behind. Rich will put notes on them, notifying the owners that they must be removed. The commission will make sure that hunters who register at town hall next year will be notified to remove tree stands by the end of the hunting period. The commission removed 2 rebar stakes from the foot bridge near the river for safety reasons. The bridge will need to be secured, prior to the higher water levels of spring.

3) Wallum Lake Canoe Launch: The water level is 1 inch below the 585.0 mark on the dam.

4) Gateway: No issues. Rich will get estimate from Roots & Shoots for the upcoming maintenance season.

5) Clear River Canoe Launch: The commission will continue to maintain the launch until the launch at the new park in Oakland is open. The commission will then evaluate the relevance of continuing to maintain this launch.

6) Earth Day Activities: Rich has been representing the Conservation Commission at the meetings. Earth Day Clean Up Day plans are underway. Celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day are being discussed. Rich and Steve Rawson explored possible sites for the time capsule and tree planting. An area to the left of the First Universalist Church in Harrisville, along the sidewalk leading to the Assembly Theatre was selected. Rich has sent a letter to the Board of Administration for their approval to use the site.

7) Blackstone in Bloom: Rich spoke with a representative from Pascoag Utility District. They offered to make the necessary repairs to the water line, which was damaged previously by plows, and install a water meter to supply water to a sprinkler system. A battery operated sprinkler system would be utilized to eliminate the need for electric. The entity(s) that would be responsible for the water bill and maintenance still need to be determined.

8) Alteration of Wetlands: On January 16th, Rich walked the site located at the corner of Staghead Drive and Round Lake Drive, with Joe Raymond, Building Inspector. It was observed that approximately 60% of the property is wetlands. Once the 50 foot buffer is calculated in, approximately 80% of the property is affected by the wetlands. Rich delivered a letter to RI DEM stating the Conservation Commission has

no objection to the permit, as long as all town zoning and building restrictions can be met, an ISDS can be approved, and the RI DEM has no objections.

Invoices/Mail: None

Adjournment: 8:00 pm

(Motion made by Leslie Bowen; Seconded by Mike Scurka - approved unanimously)