

## **Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**May 14, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Richard Dionne

### **Members Present:**

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

### **Members Absent:**

Mike Scurka (excused), Cameron Genereux (excused)

A motion was made and vote taken to accept the minutes of the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

**Nipmuc Trail:** Members Rich, Mike and Leslie met with Eagle Scout candidate Chase at the trail on April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss his Eagle Scout project. Some of the work discussed included:

- Replace the posts of the interpretive trail
- Ensure sufficient markers exist to be able to follow the trail in both directions
- Repair foot bridges as necessary, raised up, possibly 3 ft. wide with non-skid paint for traction
- Stain outdoor classroom table & benches
- Add 2-3 water bars at the incline from the river to protect from erosion & act as steps
- Replace the River/Trail intersection sign
- Gather Nipmuc Indian information for the kiosk.
- Add a "trail entrance" sign where trail enters woods at back of field
- Add a bench approximately halfway along the trail

**Wallum Lake Canoe Launch:** Water level is 585.7. There's been a lot of kayak activity on nice days. Overall the area has been quiet & clean. Spring has brought lots of birds to the area, such as Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, warblers, as well as osprey. As many as 40 species have been observed within a day.

**Gateway:** The perennials from last year are coming up & the area around the sign has been mulched.

**Clear River Canoe Launch:** A request was made by a resident to keep the grass path mowed due to ticks. Joe L will continue to mow the area again this season, as he has done in the past, to keep the grass at a reasonable height. A request was also made to have the boulder barricade moved further down the path so kayaks/canoes could be transported closer to the river by vehicles. Rich noted that the area is the property of the Sewer Department, so we have no authority to move the boulders.

**Invenergy Clear River Energy:** Final closing hearings will begin in June. The court approved Johnston to sell water to Invenergy. DEM approved a preliminary air permit for Invenergy. Hearing are to follow.

**Laginestra Property:** No Report

**Earth Day Event:** The event went well with about 230 volunteers. Andrea is in process of tallying the numbers. Rich noted a parent of the recipient of our Audubon gift certificate donation was thrill with it & looking forward to taking her child there. Also, the tree we raffled off was a very nice specimen.

**Arbor Day Tree Planting:** Rich, Joe P, Mike, and Cameron spent about 2 hours on Arbor Day planting a tree at Gonyea Park in Pascoag. Someone has thoughtfully mulched the tree. Rich did pull the mulch away from the base of the tree to provide air circulation. We will need to keep the tree watered later in the summer, if the rain ever ends.

**BCC Budget Account Update:** As of 04/16/19 the budget shows sufficient funds for the remaining scheduled expenditures for this fiscal year.

**Family Fair:** As of today, Maureen from Roots & Shoots has been unable to source a sufficient quantity of plants for our annual plant giveaway at the price we normally budget. If she can find sufficient product, we may need to increase the budget slightly for this event.

**Blackstone in Bloom Project:** The triangle at Grove & N Main Streets has been proposed as a new site. It needs a lot of work & the deadline is about 4 weeks away. An alternate site is the Louis Bleiweis Memorial Park on Sherman Farm Rd. DPW will prep & mulch the site. We will help purchase & plant some trees/plants. Joe L. offered to represent the BCC in the project.

**Blackstone River Coalition Report:** The water quality report for the Blackstone River Water shed was received.

**RI DEM Alteration to Wetlands Permit:** A permit request has been submitted for the crossing of wetlands to reach a site for solar panels by the town of Burrillville in the Route 102 industrial park. Rich will schedule a time for members to walk & review the site with Ray Goff.

**Invoices:** A motion was made and voted on to pay an invoice in the amount of \$990 from Roots & Shoots for the annual maintenance of the Gateway sign area.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:15 PM

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