

## **Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**June 11, 2019**

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

**Members Present:** Rich Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Joe Pedro, Mike Scurka, Greg Devlin, Cameron Genereux, and Joe Lavallee

**Members Absent:** none

**Guests:** Chase Zaricany, Mrs. Zaricany

A motion was made and vote taken to accept the minutes of the May 14th meeting.  
(Motion by Joe P; Seconded by Mike - passed unanimously)

### **Nipmuc Trail:**

Commission reviewed with Eagle Scout candidate Chase, the plans and progress of the trail project, which included:

- Replacing the posts of the interpretive trail
- Ensure sufficient markers exist to be able to follow the trail in both directions, yet still allow visitors to feel sense of exploring nature, by avoiding excessive marking.
- Foot bridges will be made of pressure treated lumber, approximately 3 foot wide and 20 feet long, elevated out of the water.
- Stain outdoor classroom table & benches
- Add 2-3 water bars at the incline from the river to protect from erosion, act as steps, & delineate the trail.
- 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 along the trail.
- Chase has raised \$550 so far for the project.

The BCC will send a courtesy letter to the property abutters, informing them that we have given permission to the Boy Scouts to be doing work on the trail this summer.

This weekend, Mike will take care of removing the fallen tree that is blocking the trail near the first kiosk.

**Wallum Lake Canoe Launch:** Water level is 585.6. Joe P noted that Riel Landscaping Inc. of Pascoag was parked on Wallum Lake Rd near the launch area, removing water from the Clear River. He inform the worker that we did not want them taking the water from our site, and that they may need a permit to be removing water. Joe P will try to get legal clarification on this issue.

**Gateway:** The perennials from last year are sparse. Maintenance of the area is up to date. Lights are working. Joe P and Leslie will share seeds from their gardens this year to try and Get more plants established.

**Clear River Canoe Launch:** Joe L mowed the grass this week. He noted that it had gotten quite tall, so he will mow more often to keep the grass height down.

**Invenergy Clear River Energy:** The last 3 hearings have been scheduled for the EFSB to discuss the project. It is possible they will make a decision at the last hearing on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Army Corp of Engineers are in the permitting process for the power plant. Rich will request the town hire Mr. Zemba, who gave testimony for the town at the EFSB hearings, to address the Army Corp of Engineers on behalf of the town.

**Laginestra Property:** Joe P will try to get a few maps for the commission members. Mike will be in contact with NRCS to schedule them to speak with the BCC regarding conservation easements, and resources that may be available to us.

**Blackstone in Bloom Project:** The project has been completed with 6 trees, flowers, & mulch used to beautify the area, thanks to the combined efforts of the Lions Club, DPW, Andrea from Parks & Rec, Maureen from Roots & Shoots, and Rich & Joe L from BCC. Motion was made and voted on to contribute up to \$300 for this project. (Motion was made by Rich Dionne; Seconded by Greg Devlin - passed unanimously)

**Watershed Watch:** A motion to appropriate \$650 for monitoring of Spring Lake for the 2020 season, if the funds are still available at the close of fiscal 2019. (Motion made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Greg Devlin - passed unanimously)

**Family Fair:** 150 plants of 3 varieties will be distributed at Family Fair - Catmint, Anise, Bee Balm. These pollinator-friendly plants were chosen to coincide with Pollinator Week, beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Bi-Annual Stipend:** Rich reviewed attendance sheet with the BCC and will submit it to finance.

**RI DEM Alteration to Wetlands Permit:** Rich visited the wetlands crossing site with Ray Goff. Rich will send a letter to approve the wetland crossing as long as due diligence is adhered to in order to mitigate any effect on the wetland area.

**Northern RI Conservation District:** Motion was made to revisit the request for a contribution during the next fiscal year. (Motion was made by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Cameron Genereux - passed unanimously)

**Mail:** Request was received from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor to take the Pollinator Pledge.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:24 PM

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