

Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2019

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

Members Present: Rich Dionne, Leslie Bowen, Joe Pedro, and Greg Devlin

Members Absent: Cameron Genereux (excused), Mike Scurka, and Joe Lavallee

Guests: None

A motion was made and vote taken to accept the minutes of the July 09, 2019 meeting.
(Motion by Joe Pedro; Seconded by Greg Devlin - passed unanimously)

Nipmuc Trail: Joe L recently walked the trail & reported to Rich that all looked good. Greg talked with Scout Master Newt regarding the trail project. Newt noted that the scouts will be prepping supplies & materials for the project as part of their upcoming camp experience. The two 6.5 foot logs, donated by a friend of Greg's for the project, are cut and ready to be picked up and transported to the site by the Boy Scouts. Rich distributed the letter to the property abutters, notifying them of the activity they can expect by the boy scouts.

Wallum Lake Canoe Launch: Water level is 584.7. Joe P noted that the water level sign needs to be reattached at the bottom. Rich will contact DPW to request they evaluate & reattach the sign, as they will have appropriate tools to do so. Joe P reported that Pascoag Utility District (PUD) has installed the "No Swimming" sign for us. Many thanks to Bill Guertin & PUD for their assistance in installing the sign at a height that will deter vandalism to the sign. There have been lots of kayakers using the site. The area has remained clean with the trash barrel being utilized by visitors and emptied regularly by the town.

Gateway: The area is looking good, and Roots & Shoots is maintaining the area well. Rich spoke with Hope Leeson from the Wildflower Society. She will evaluate the site sometime in September and let us know how we can be successful in enhancing the production of wildflower in this area.

Clear River Canoe Launch: Joe L is keeping the grass mowed. The beaver dam appears to be broken up, and the water level in the river is very low.

Invenergy Clear River Energy: Next week it will be 60 day deadline for the EFSB to issue their written decision of their June 20th decision to deny the application for the power plant. Invenergy will have 10 days to appeal the decision once the written decision has been issued. There were 2 bills before the RI legislation last session, regarding the permitting process of power plants in RI, which did not get to the floor. We are hopeful they will make it to the floor next session. Of the two, the Burrillville sponsored bill appears more comprehensive & gives the local host town/city some say in the process. Rich received a reply from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to his letter from the BCC regarding the need of an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of the site. They noted that Invenergy has requested to suspend the application, however, all comments will remain on file. Rich followed up and was told there is no concrete timeframe for an application to remain suspended, and that while the ACOE can request an EIS, they need to see the written decision before considering any further action.

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Laginestra Property: The commission walked the property on July 14th. It is a nice piece of property, but not really big enough to create walking trails (about 10 minutes to circumvent the perimeter), and access would be difficult during the wet season. Parking would also be quite limited. The marsh area appears good for seasonal bird watching. Joe P plans to do an informal ecological survey of the habitat, including bird and tree species.

Budget: The BCC budget for fiscal year 2019 ended with a program & Supplies balance of \$546.36. Fiscal year 2020 has been level funded from last year.

Green Festival: The town's Green Festival will be held on September 7th (rain date 09/21) from 10 - 2pm at the Stillwater complex. Rich encouraged all BCC members to participate at this event, as well as all future events that the BCC schedules. If any member has a prior commitment that prevents participation in any event, please let the chairperson know in advance.

Mail: The BCC received a letter from the Burrillville Town Council, thanking us for our support in opposing the Invenenergy power plant.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:20 PM

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