

Burrillville Conservation Meeting Minutes (Final) - November 15, 2022

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

Members Present: Ron Lapierre, Mike Longenbaker, Joe Pedro, Roberta Lacey, David Landry, Michael Lamoureux, and Monique Deroche

Guests: Samantha Young and Richard Dionne

1) **Accept October Meeting Minutes:** Mike Lamoureux motioned to approve. Joe Pedro seconded the motion.

2) **Water Level Report and Canoe Launch status.** - Joe Pedro reported on the water level. He is slowly letting water out to 585.5- lowest will be 584 +/- Wilsons Res. Is lowering theirs, so Joe is keeping pace and levels. Even with the rain the water level came back up to normal, all is well.

1. **Memo of Agreement (MOA) on lake elevation** - ongoing. Ron reported its ongoing- has not heard anything from RIDEM.
2. **RIDEM Wetland Application relative to determining winter and summer water elevations** - ongoing.
3. **Hydraulic design and dam discharge options available** - ongoing. Hydraulic design is on hold as we have no active DPW Director. Mike Lamoureux mentioned we consider funding for these projects, as normally the DPW director would do this. We shouldn't miss our opportunity.
4. **Flooding of Route 100 preventative options, pipe diameters/culverts at roadway** - completed.
5. **Long term Annual Dam Maintenance Plan** - ongoing.

3) **Nipmuc Trail:** Discuss projects and status: Ron reviewed a grant program "Wild & Scenic Community Grant" availability and found we were not eligible for it. A table is needed in the outdoor classroom area and a tree is down on the white blaze trail. Ron has been walking the trails and picked up some items. Need to create field crew after hunting season to perform maintenance on the trails. The old table in the outdoor classroom was found to be rotten through so a new table is needed. Our field crew removed the table and installed new forms in the ground for a new table. This project will happen after hunting season. The prior Commission used standard wood and we will continue to use non-treated wood and cover with a finish.

4) **Quarterly Conservation Programs:** Discuss and schedule community presentations. Mike Longenbaker accepted the position to steward this new program. Mike wrote up a rough draft plan for review. Mike reviewed the program draft with commission. Scott Buchanan would be a good resource for outdoor educational items. Ron reported that the properties around town lakes the run-off goes into the lakes and fertilizers are hurting the water. Maybe a good idea to share with the community. The URI Cooperative Incentive program helped in years past her Rich Dionne (public). Roberta suggested "Save-the-Lakes" and having them do a public presentation. The town has been on board in the past. Start coordinating months ahead and share ideas with presenters and locations.

5) Work Status and Activities:

1. **Lapham Farm Road Conservation Easement site updates.** Ron reported they marked off the northern border with metal boundary plates- all other ribbons on east side were removed and we will need to remark that area. Much more work is needed in the corridor area along Steere Farm Road. Would like to place "No Hunting" signs along that area and along edges. Ron saw a few old hunting stands and one newer area that was suspect. Ron would like to clean up the trails and eventually make it open to surrounding area local neighborhood residents. Don't want to make it too public with very limited parking, as there is very little limited parking. Will plan another work schedule soon for the area soon.

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2. Union Pond site updates. Ron talked with Ray Goff, the town planner and they are hoping to close on the property at the end of the month. At this point we can plan trails and start working. Parking currently at Overlook Nursing Home and walk down the cart trail across lawn.

6) Rt. 102 Gateway Sign updates: Plan for holiday decorations setup. Discuss new purchases and vote. – Plan to get decorations up after thanksgiving. Need lengths of pine garland. Need to schedule a work party. Remind Paul Wright of what we need. Qty. 2- 30' length - - and 7 wreathes from Esposito through the Boy scouts. Authorized \$250.00 to spend. Joe Pedro motioned to spend no more than \$250 on the Christmas decorations. Mike Lamoureux seconded the motion.

7) Watershed Watch Program: Report on Spring Lake water quality status. Nothing to report on

8) Town Conservation Plan (TCP) FY2022, (RIDEM Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), needed for 2025.

1. Subcommittee report. Looking to submit to Ray Goff for review. Possibly Amanda could help.

2. Commission members' feedback. No feedback to date.

9) Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Ordinance Sub-Committee agendas: Review and discuss. Ron is waiting for the minutes from the last Zoning Meeting. New activity where there are projects waiting on permits and other information. No new news on the Wood Residential Compound property. Discussion on the compound "open space" areas that need to eventually help police up these areas as passive recreational use. The Planning Board does not have minutes posted to date. Only a couple of applications for new business and admin. Report for Barnes Rd. subdivision. Pascoag Main St application for minor land development. Minor sub-divisions on Round Top Road. Rich Dionne suggested we connect with planning about solar fields and dust control and undercover.

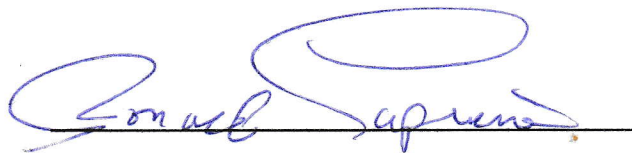
10) Fiscal 2023 Budget Report: Budget status and expense update. Ron reported \$407.95 unallocated funds available in budget. Next month the stipends will be submitted for the last six months. Ron joined the RI Forest Conservators Organization which is mostly made up of private landowners that are in the org. to educate and preserve the forest lands.

11) Discuss December meeting agenda and location. Last year we had a potluck dinner- possibly meet at a restaurant- Uncle Ronnie's was suggested we can meet in bottom room as group. Everyone buys off menu. Possibly plan for a Wednesday instead of Tuesday.

12) Old Business: Commission's Patch design and Nipmuc Trail Map updates: Review, discuss, and vote. Roberta presented a new patch design she will have more options available at the next meeting.

13) Mail: No mail.

14) Adjournment: Joe Pedro motioned to adjourn. David Landry seconded.



Ronald P. Lapierre, Chairperson