

BURRILLVILLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
105 Harrisville Main Street
Harrisville , Rhode Island 02830

Burrillville Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes- February 21, 2023

Meeting Location: American Legion Post #17, 103 Harrisville Main Street, Harrisville, RI 02830

The meeting was called to order by: Ron Lapierre at 7:00pm.

Members Present: Commission members present were: Ron Lapierre, Michael Lamoureux, Michael Longenbaker, Samantha Young, Jose Pedro, Roberta Lacey, Monique DeRoche

Members Excused:

Guests: Paul Menard

- 1) **Accept January 2023 Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Michael Lamoureux and seconded by Michael Longenbaker to accept minutes from January 2023 meeting - passed unanimously.
- 2) **Wallum Lake Dam/ Canoe Launch-** Jose Pedro- water level at 584. Discussion of water level being too low impacting wetlands and AA water status. Guest Paul Menard stated he feels water levels are currently too low and are impacting wetlands along lake.
 1. RIDEM Wetland Application relative to determining winter and summer water elevations - ongoing.
 2. Hydraulic design and dam discharge options available (town capital funding required) - Jose Pedro reported, everything is working well
 3. Memo of Agreement (MOA) on lake elevation - ongoing
- 3) **Nipmunk Trail- Projects and status:**
 1. Maintenance and work details report from Ron Lapierre - Red trail needs upkeep. Several hazardous trees near trail that should be removed, or pulled down. Blazes are bright. Some sections the marked (identified) vegetation is no longer visible needs to be cleaned out to allow for growth. Jose Pedro proposed a possible birding walk with his brother (Carlos Pedro) at Nipmuk, best time is mid-May. Michael Longenbaker to coordinate. Samantha Young questioned a railing up steep hill at assembly section for safety, and on white trail going down to the river.
 2. Nipmuc Trail Survey Hike with Martha Thoman Report- Very successful hikes. Martha does a nice job engaging all present. Next hike April 15th.
- 4) **Quarterly Conservation Programs-Michael Longenbaker reported-**
 1. Forest Management planning presentation from January 18, 2023, with Mark Tremblay. Good presentation about 14 community members attended. About one half of those attending are planning to follow up with the information.
 2. Roberta mentioned new program NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service that will financially help create a conservation easement plan in place. Protects land from development. Micheal Longenbaker mentioned DEM workshops open to the public that provide education on RI wetlands.
 3. **David Gregg Presentation on Invasive species scheduled for March 29th at JSM Library.**

The Town of Burrillville will provide accommodations needed to ensure equal participation. Please contact the Burrillville Town Clerk at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting it. A request for this service can be made in writing or by calling (401) 568-4300 (voice) or "via RI Relay 1-800-745-5555" (TTY).

4. **Salamander Crossing Event** with volunteers' discussion. DEM would like volunteers to help salamanders in the spring. Samantha identified crossing locations. Samantha will need 3 days in 50's and rain to predict crossing dates. Crossing event will start around 8pm for 2 hours. Group volunteered for salamander crossings and were assigned vernal pools. Samantha will alert all to the day when its determined and coordinate volunteers at the various locations.

5) **Other town properties work status and activity updates:**

1. **Lapham Farm Road Conservation Easement site updates.** Trail maintenance report - Ron spoke to Jeff McCormick (Public Works) about Lapham Farm parking sites, maybe next fiscal year. Group to meet at trail Sunday February 26 at 10am to begin trail clearing.
2. **Union Pond Park site report and Branch River Park Report.** Ray Goff (Planning) on vacation no news on closing on property.

6) **Rt. 102 Gateway Signs and Burrillville/N. Smithfield Town Line Adopt-A-Spot-** No news to report. Light is working. Ron would like to find alternative to paying for mowing. Possible DOT or Town. Roberta suggested a meadow and looking into possible funding sources to get a meadow planted.

7) **Town Conservation Plan (TCP) - FY2023, (RIDEM Wildlife Action Plan (WAP)), for year 2025-** Subcommittee Report - Michael Lamoureux, Bill Eccelston, Richard Dionne, Samantha Young met to discuss next steps with filing plan. Need to work out how town of Burrillville and BCC can be more involved (to ensure the town/state plans align) in state plan, and partner with other interested town parties like the Burrillville Land Trust.

March meeting with Amanda J. Freitas, RI Wildlife Action Plan, Community Liaison and Scott W. Buchanan, Ph.D., Herpetologist, RIDEM to discuss further.

8) **Buck Hill/Cedar Swamp-** Michael Lamoureux asked about Buck Hill / Cedar Swamp, Natural Heritage. How do we document species we know about? What restrictions do we need to be aware of? Next steps for this proposal are meeting with planning board for final approval then zoning board to approve changes in land use. Ron to send letter with concerns to both boards before their meetings.

9) **Fiscal 2023 Budget Report: Budget Status and Expenses Report.** Budget is looking good, we have funds for Martha's walks. Motion from Michael Longenbaker and seconded by Jose Pedro to pay \$200 for Martha's's hike last week and her hike in April. Passed unanimously.

10) **Commission Additional Duty Appointments, Assign Land Stewards and Vice-Chair.**

Mike Longenbaker nominated Mike Lamoureux for Vice-Chair, Jose Pedro made motion to appoint Michael Lamoureux Vice Chair seconded by Roberta. Passed unanimously

Possible meeting location change: Mike Longenbaker made motion to move location, seconded by Jose Pedro. 111 Chapel Street, Harrisville, Berard-Desjarlais American Legion Post 88 move for April meeting.

Land Stewards appointed.

Nipmunk Trail- Monique DeRoche

Lapham Farm- Samantha Young

Union Pond- Mike Lamoureux

Branch River- Roberta Lacey, BCC need to look and see extent of work needed and what responsibilities will be pertaining to x-country team trails.

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Publicity Coordinator- webpage, bugle updates, news releases, Samantha Young

Quarterly Education Coordinator- Mike Longenbacker

Photographer- Samantha Young

Dam Coordinator- Jose Pedro

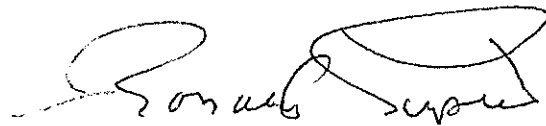
Adopt-a -Spot- Gateway Entrances- Monique DeRoche

Friends of the Conservation Commission- Group of Volunteers for maintenance of trails- (possible adventurers club (scouts), Community service for juveniles, Ron Lapierre and Mike Longenbacker

11) **Old Business:** Conservation Commission's Patch design update and discussion. Patch design was chosen at last meeting. Jose made motion to purchase patches for \$200, seconded by Mike Lamoureux, agreed unanimously.

12) **Mail:** DEM septic design going on Reservoir Rd. Waiting for review

13) **Adjournment:** Mike Lamoureux motioned to adjourn at 9:23pm seconded by Jose Pedro.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Lapierre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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