

Burrillville Conservation Commission
Approved amended minutes Meeting Minutes (Amended 12-5-2023)
November 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ron Lapierre at 6:36pm.

Members Present: Ron Lapierre, Michael Longenbaker, Roberta Lacey, Samantha Young, Adam Schatz, Paul Menard. **Members absent:** Monique DeRoche

Guests: Wallum lake residents, Jeff McCormick – DPW Dir. Town of Burrillville

Accept October Minutes - Samantha Young motioned to accept; Adam Schatz seconded. Unanimously accepted. Due to the absence of Monique DeRoche, Mike Longenbaker was assigned to take minutes.

Wallum Lake - Jeff McCormick reviewed the town's plans for construction of a spillway near the spot of the present dam. The purpose of the spillway will be to provide a much more consistent water level for the lake. Jeff is collaborating with a local engineer and RIDEM to finalize the appropriate level of the lake in summer and in winter. He is currently proposing a new summer level of 585.42. Jeff also emphasized that there will still need to be human interaction to manage water levels, but not at the same intensity as today. Wallum Lake residents raised various concerns about past management of water levels by the BCC over the past 20 years. Wallum lake residents expressed concerns that water levels will be properly managed going forward. Discussions regarding Wallum Lake ended at 7:15pm the Wallum Lake residents leaving the meeting.

Town Conservation Plan -

Samantha Young and Roberta Lacey gave a progress report. They referred to a recent explanatory email that was sent to commission members. Previous work was built on assumptions that we could follow sample plans from a town in Connecticut, but this was found to be a faulty premise. The status is that we are at the starting point. Roberta Lacey suggested that the BCC should have regular contact with Ray Goff (planning) to understand how the plan will be implemented and to make sure it gets implemented in the way intended. Samantha made a motion to amend the way we word the plan on future minutes and agenda to "**Burrillville Wildlife Conservation Plan**" Adam seconded and the motion was approved.

Water protection - Ron Lapierre reviewed the water quality test results for Spring Lake.

Quarterly Conservation programs – The fall guided hike of the Nipmuc trail went very well, though not as well attended as other events. Weather and competition from other local

activities could have been a factor in this lower attendance. A "status of the birds" presentation is planned for November 29th to be held at the library. The speaker will be Dr. Charles Clarkson and the topic will be a report about the status of birds, threats, and opportunities for humans to support them.

Town Properties and Conservation land project status and activity report updates: Ron Lapierre provided a verbal status description for each of the properties shown on the list below.

1. Nipmuc Conservation Area activity update – Trail is in good shape. Presentation still needs to be completed in the group presentation area.
2. Lapham Farm Conservation Easement site: No hunting signs need to be installed.
3. Branch River Park activity update: New trail map is being prepared. Need for snow fences to be installed on steep ridges. Chair Lapierre asked Mike Longenbaker to contact Martha Thoman to get a proposal to conduct a wildlife survey of branch river park.
4. Church St. and Eagle Peak Rd, Burrillville Town Recreation lodge property: a walking path is planned to be added by the town.
5. Duck Pond site activity update: New Kiosk in-progress by BSA Troop 102. New trail map in-progress.
6. Canoe Launch site reviews, locations, maintenance status report: Need a launch site map for the Parks & Rec. Dept...
7. Union Pond Park & Conservation Area activity updates. Boundary markers to be installed.

Route 102 Adopt-a-Spot: Holiday decorations have been put up.


Town Council, Planning Board, Zoning Board – Chair Lapierre briefly reviewed a recent zoning variance requests and there was brief discussion.

BCC Fiscal 2024 Budget- Ron indicated that expenses are within budget.

Old Business - none

Mail and Correspondence – none

Adjourned at 9:00pm. Samantha Young motioned to adjourn, and Adam Schatz seconded. Unanimously accepted. Next Monthly meeting is scheduled for December 5th at 6:30pm.

 1/7/24
Ronald P. Lapierre, Chairperson / Date