

**Burrillville Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
December 5, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by: Ron Lapierre at 6:37pm

**Members Present:** Ron Lapierre, Michael Longenbaker, Roberta Lacey, Samantha Young, Adam Schatz, Paul Menard. **Members absent:** Monique DeRoche Due to the absence of the secretary (Monique), Mike Longenbaker was assigned to take minutes.

**Guests:** none

**Accept November Minutes** – Samantha made a motion to amend the minutes, seconded by Adam and the motion was passed.

**Burrillville Wildlife Conservation Plan (BWCP)-** subcommittee report

- Samantha and Roberta met with Bill Eccleston for advice on plan construction. Due to his background, he is a highly qualified resource on this subject. Samantha distributed notes from her conversation with Bill.
- Regarding the Nipmuc area, Samantha and Roberta indicated that it was recently named a National Heritage area by the state RIDEM. The commission discussed ways to raise public awareness of this including production of a sign that residents can place on their property. Ron will send a letter to all NIPMUC residents that fall within the geographic boundaries of the heritage area. The letter draft will be shared with Ray Goff prior to distribution.

**Quarterly Conservation programs** – The November 29<sup>th</sup> presentation by Dr. Charles Clarkson of the RI Audubon society was attended by 48 people at the library. Our next event will be the guided full-moon hike at the Branch River Park on December 26<sup>th</sup>. The hike will be guided by Martha Thoman, a local naturalist. Mike will contact the Parks and recreation department to request a permit to use the park after hours.

**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.

- Nipmuc – hiking restriction signs will be taken down at the end of December as the hunting season will be complete.
- Lapham Farm Conservation Easement site: Letters to the residents that surround the property were sent out by Samantha and Mike. One resident reached out to Chair Ron Lapierre and complained that he was now being restricted in the use of his ATV on the property. Ron indicated that he reaffirmed to the man that riding ATV's is NOT allowed on the land.

- Union Pond Park & Conservation Area activity updates: Ron said there will be a work detail on trails at the Union Pond site on Saturday 12-9-2023.

**Budget planning 2024-** in brief discussion, Ron indicated that we could use the \$900 which was saved in the budget from route 102 entrance area maintenance and put the money toward supplies to construct kiosks for the parks. Mike Longenbaker made a motion to approve the budget request for 2024. Roberta seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Expenses:**

- Expenses for holiday garland and wreaths were presented by Ron, totaling \$140 for wreaths and \$75 for garland. Mike made a motion to approve the expenses. Roberta seconded the motion and it carried.
- Mike requested reimbursement for supplies used for the Lapham resident mailing. \$39.60 for stamps, \$19.24 for envelopes and address stickers. Ron made a motion to approve the expenses and Adam seconded. The motion carried.

**Town Council, Planning Board, Zoning Board** – Ron briefly reviewed a recent zoning variance that will go to the planning board on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Ron will prepare a letter to be delivered to the planning board, voicing BCC opposition to the variance request.

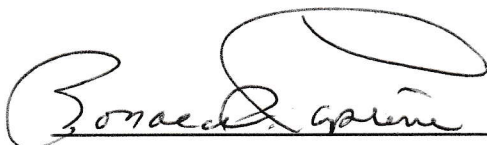
**New Business** – discussion of an effort to update a book/pamphlet that had previously been published called “Notable Trees” of Burrillville. The goal would be to research, locate notable trees and produce documentation. In addition to updating the book/pamphlet we may be able to offer driving tours and visitation of the trees themselves.

**Old Business** - none

**Mail and Correspondence** – none

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:51pm. Samantha Young motioned to adjourn, and Paul seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Next Monthly meeting is scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

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