

# **Warren Conservation Commission Minutes**

**Meeting March 21, 2011**

**Present: David Weed, Jane Harrison, Kurt Jamiel, Butch Lombardi, Helen Hawkinson, Diane Warren, Bob Rutkiewicz**

**Regrets: None**

**Chair: Kurt Jamiel**

**Next Meeting: April 18, 2011**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to hear first from Janet Baldwin of the Roger Williams University faculty about retention/detention ponds.**

**Dr. Baldwin described the difference between detention and retention and then talked about maintenance. Detention holds back water to control flooding, trickles out slowly. Retention acts as both detention and a permanent pool and has a certain capacity so water stays in there, giving solids time to settle out. This helps with nutrients, lowers biochemical oxygen demand. and helps with floods and water quality. Retention ponds are good for water quality but are hard to design for 100 year storm and can breed mosquitoes. Detention ponds have maintenance issues; one has to remove trash, leaves, and branches, so regular maintenance is a problem Erosion is also a problem on the sides. One wants to have native grasses and other plants but ones that aren't so big as to cause problems as some**

**plants fill up the pond faster.**

**Bob asked if the pond had a liner, would it be a retention pond. Ms. Baldwin answered "not necessarily". Private property owners are supposed to maintain them; we have some that are deeded to the town, A lot of work goes into designing them but then no one maintains them. Jane asked if we should we be asking the town to reconstruct them. Ms Baldwin suggested that we check the sediment accumulation and dredge when the depth exceed 25% of the storage depth. Maintenance notes should be on the plan; if it's on the plans, then the owners have to do it. Jane stated that e need to determine what should be done. Ms. Baldwin suggested that we compare water coming in and going out to determine if they areworking as designed or not. Jane suggested that the planning board should determine who should do maintenance. Jane will look into planning regulations.**

**Bob suggested that we should buy topographical maps for the town. Jane made a motion that Bob to buy maps; Diane seconded; and the motion carried unanimously. Helen thanked Janet for her time. Bob suggested that the next step is talk to John Massed to see if he has the retention pond plans.**

**Minutes – Butch made a motion to accept; Jane seconded, and all voted in favor of accepting the minutes as submitted.**

**Earth Day Clean up – April 30th**

Jane applied for grants from DEM for \$750 maximum including \$300 for Fatima Drive Park for bench and plantings and suggested that if we get it, it should go into the Beautification Fund. Jane contacted Dunkin Donuts for refreshments and tee shirts. Mr. Urban will pick up and deliver tee shirts along with coffee urns from Dunkin Donuts. Jane will contact the Warren times for article about tee shirt design. Banners and sign will need to be picked up. Someone needs to contact the fire department for grill and latex gloves; Butch will contact Al Galinelli to make arrangements. Jane contacted the Grange for cooks and kids to do clean up. Bob will volunteer to the shopping at Sam's Club. John Massed may provide the bags and gloves. Jane got Peter Wright to DJ for \$150. Bob will put banners on the handkerchief factory fence and at Parker Mills. Helen will ask John Massed about composters. Bob will contact Chuck Staton to see if the Tree Committee wants to exhibit. Jane has already contacted the Kickimuit River Council and the Land Trust.

### **Comp Plan RWU advisory committee**

Butch had a second meeting with the Roger Williams crew to document all of the buildings that had any historic significance. They have documented the ones that were still "plaqueable." The next plan is to do an informational event to let the whole town know what they're doing on historic development. The town is getting a study for free.

## **Hugh Cole Well bench**

**Dave report that he has been in touch with John Massed but the stones have yet to be moved.**

## **Town Council Briefing**

**Jane reported that the Town Council briefing went well. She complimented John Massed and had very few questions and no negative comments. Caroline is looking for a grant for Company Street and will apply for a \$3000 grant for three benches, planters and bike rack as well as a DEM grant for Fatima Drive. She also talked about Earth Day, and Butch reported on Osprey nests.**

**Helen will get a price on new Conservation Commission hats/**

## **Beautification**

**Route 114 entrance – We need to do more plantings and get the sign posts painted or stained.**

**Memorial tree – We still owe \$300 but haven't been billed.**

**Stop & Shop – The Kickimuit River council has handled that so well. Jane recommended that we take it off the agenda.**

**Warren Documentary – Diane has looked into funding and talked with professors. She suggested we could have different people looking into three different groups: 1) history providing the guideline for actual filming; 2) broadcasting, students could do interviewing; and 3) someone could do the actual filming. Diane will have something for the next meeting**

## **New business**

**Osprey report - Butch passed around the Audubon report which breaks down the Osprey count by town, but he felt it doesn't give an accurate view of what's happening in Warren. There area a total of 171 ospreys, but there are others. Warren fledged 25. Warren and Barrington fledged 46 together. Bristol fledged two. South Kingston had more, but we were second. We've also had bald eagles and a Peregrine falcon siteing over the front door of Town Hall.**

**The semi-annual report for budget shows that we had \$1,374 remaining with no new bills.**

**Correspondance – Jane received a notice of the FEMA Discovery Meeting. They will have a flood zone session April 6th in Cranston for Bristol County If anyone goes, contact Jane to get them on the report**

**Jane described a seedling sale from Northern Conservation District.**

**We would have to pick them up in Johnston Jane went through it, but none of what we had on our plan for Fatima Drive**

**Dave raised a question about the impact of the plans to replace the broken bridge, but no details are known at this time.**

**Bob noted that a tree on Seymour Street is going to be cut down. People can object.**

**Helen made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Bob. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**David S. Weed**

**Recording Secretary**