

**MEMBERS:**

Donald T. Burns, Chairman  
Donald Brown, Vice-Chairman  
Richard E. Paquet, Treasurer  
Pasquale Miele, Secretary  
Renee Finlay, Member  
Peter Pare, Member  
Charles Compton, Member

Lonnie Thurber, Assoc. Member

Janet A. Eberts, CMC  
Recording Secretary



## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2018

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Conservation Commission meeting is held in the Smithfield Conservation Center, Waterview Drive, Smithfield, Rhode Island on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Present: Donald Burns, Chairman; Donald Brown, Vice-Chairman; Richard Paquet, Treasurer, Renee Finlay, Peter Pare and Charles Compton. Also present at tonight's meeting is Robert Eberts. Absent: Pat Miele, Secretary

Chairman Donald Burns calls the meeting order.

Mr. Burns states Pat Miele is absent from tonight's meeting because he is sick with the flu.

### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND HEALTH NOTIFICATION (Don Burns)**

#### ***Minutes:***

The following corrections were made to the January 3, 2017 minutes.  
Page 2, Under ***Election of Officers***, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, change Donald Burns to Donald Brown and at end of last sentence in same paragraph add "Motion is **approved by a unanimous vote**."

**Motion** is made by Renee Finlay and duly seconded by Richard Paquet to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2017 Conservation Commission Meeting as amended. **Motion is approved by a unanimous vote of 6 to 0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### ***Reports on Meetings:***

Peter Pare reports there was no Soil Erosion meeting last month.

Don Burns reports on the Town Council meeting that he attended last evening. Mr. Burns states Representative Thomas Winfield and Greg Costantino introduced a bill to disband the Smithfield Land Trust. Mr. Burns states that Mr. Iannotti, husband of Land Trust member Cheryl Iannotti, made a statement. Don Burns, Don Brown and Peter Pare also spoke in opposition of the bill. Don Burns states he attends most of the Land Trust meetings.

The last meeting of the Technical Review Committee is now discussed. One item on the agenda was for the Emin property on John Mowry Road and Rt. 116 for mixed use. The other item on the agenda was for property at 690 Douglas Pike near ReMax building which abuts Renee's property. The developers want to combine two properties to construct a commercial building. The biggest problem seems to be with runoff. Joe Casali is the engineer for the project. There were no major objections, however it was postponed to a later date.

### ***Maintaining Conservation Areas including the Conservation Center:***

Don Burns states there is a potential problem with the parking at the Mercer Lookout area because new homes are being built and the residents may complain. Mr. Burns feels they may have to go back to parking on Wolf Hill. Mr. Burns states the Conservation Commission may have to look at it again in the future.

Don Brown states he went to the Stillwater Scenic Trail the other day and the trail was very wet and hazardous and there was also dog waste along the trail.

Richard Paquet states he went to Connors Farm and the dirt bikes had torn up the trail. He has also noticed a lot of trash along some of the Conservation trails.

### ***Discuss Progress at Welcome Woods:***

Mr. Burns states there is nothing new to report on the Welcome Woods area.

### ***Goals 2018:***

#### **SMITHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION: GOALS FOR 2018**

1. Continue to remain visible in the community in terms of what we do.

Nothing new this month to report on. May be an article in the spring on phosphates.

2. Poetry Project.

The Poetry Project is ongoing. Renee Finlay states there will be a meeting next week on the Poetry Project.

3. Old County Elementary School Project

Renee Finlay reports that Laurie Sullivan, Principal at Old County Road School is retiring. Renee state she has no news on the Roots and Shoots program.

4. Bench at Connors Farm

Peter Pare left a message for the Scout Master's son regarding the possibility of installing a bench at the Connors Farm area.

***Discuss the Gorge Property:***

There is nothing new to report on the Gorge Property. Don Burns will talk with Joe Casali again.

***Discus Gates at the Stillwater Scenic Trail:***

Don Burns states it will be difficult to move the gates up further for the parking at the Stillwater Scenic Trail because there is no place to turn around.

***Tree Day 2018:***

Tree Day 2018 is discussed briefly. Renee Finlay will obtain the permit from the School Department to use the property in front of McCabe Elementary School for Tree Day. Renee also filled out the request form for the seedlings and she will pick them up

Don Burns feels that the Conservation Commission should go back to planting some of the trees around town.

***Discuss Changes to the Open Meetings Law:***

Recording Secretary Jan Eberts informed the members that she spoke with Stacy at the Secretary of State's Office. She stated that all minutes of meetings must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office within 35 days of the meeting. If the next meeting does not fall within the 35day timeline, a draft copy must be submitted and upon approval of the minutes an approved copy will be submitted. It is also noted that all

items to be discussed at a meeting must be listed on the agenda or there can be no discussion on that item until the item is placed on a future agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***Pay Bills:***

The following bills are submitted for payment for the month February 2018.

Janet Eberts	\$ 125.00	Recording and Transcription 2/7/2018 meeting
Consumers Propane	\$ 302.26	Heating Fuel

**Motion** is made by Peter Pare and duly seconded by Richard Paquet to approve the bills to be submitted for payment for the month of February 2018. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 6 to 0 vote.**

***Discuss Duck Boxes:***

Don Burns states that they will not be able to check and clean the duck boxes this year as they missed the window of opportunity with the ice on the pond and now the ice has melted. Mr. Burns states they will try to do better next year.

***Discuss 2018 Budget Submission:***

The members discuss the 2018 Budget Submission. Richard Paquet, Treasurer states he received the budget submission forms from the Town Manager's Office. Mr. Paquet states the Town Manager has asked all departments and boards and commissions to reduce line items in the budget by 5% or 10%. Mr. Paquet states the OSCAR Program and the part-time account cannot be reduced. Mr. Burns suggests they reduce some of the other items by 5% with the understanding that some line items may have to be adjusted and reconfigured accordingly. Mr. Burns suggests that Mr. Paquet include a note stating the trails are being maintained by the OSCAR kids in the summer as well as volunteers.

**Motion** is made by Peter Pare and duly seconded by Charles Compton that the 2018/2019 Operating Budget for the Smithfield Conservation Commission be submitted to the Town Manager with reservations as noted. **Motion is approved by a unanimous 6 to 0 vote.**

***Public Comment:***

There is no public comment.

Meeting adjourned: 9:14 p.m

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Janet A. Eberts, CMC, Recording Secretary