

**Pawtuxet River Authority
And Watershed Council
Historic Harris Mill
618 Main Street
Coventry, RI 02816
401-615-7039
www.pawtuxet.org**

**Monthly Board Meeting
January 7, 2007**

Board Members Present: Jim McCaughey, Robert Nero, Jack Donovan, Rita Holahan, Scott Goodinson, Arthur Langlais, Fritz Benz, Glenn Warfield, Brian Manning, Jack Lancellotta

Board Members Absent: Thomas Madden (excused), Will Lemus

1. Call to Order – 6:57 PM

2. Acceptance of Minutes from November 2007 Meeting

No meeting in December due to heating problem in building. Chairman Nero had electrical heaters installed at a cost of \$400 – consisting of two baseboard heaters and associated wiring. Motion to approve made by Fritz seconded by Scott.

3. Report from Committees

None

4. Report from Fritz Benz

o Truck: Fritz reported that he is making arrangements for truck to be made available to the PRA.

o Potential acquisition of property in Scituate: Fritz is looking into a piece of property adjacent to “Grants Camps” in Scituate. Fritz and Rita will contact owner to see if he/she is willing to give/sell the property consisting of 1 to 2 acres to the PRA.

5. Property Acquisition

Rita stated that there is piece of property referred to as the “Liberian Property” along Randall Pond in Cranston currently owned by Patrick Conley that is available to the PRA. Rita stated that she has the warranty deed and needs to only file the deed with the City in order for the PRA to take over the property. The property which is less than 10,000 square feet in total area is accessible from a commercial strip of land and has potential for locating a canoe launch behind the Bank of America off of Atwood Ave. Scott noted that RI Technical Plating which has had some historic environmental problems is in the area.

Bob stated that it is located on the other end of the street.

Rita stated that she is also looking into the “Bethany Lutheran Church” property in vicinity of Cullen Concrete Plant in Cranston. Bob stated a Phase I Assessment has been conducted by himself and Rita that the land is well guarded and dumping of waste in any large quantity should not be an issue – but however, some solid waste is on the property. The property is a little less than 4.7 acres in size. A right-of-way comes along with the deed for this property.

Rita stated that a piece of property in Coventry about 18 acres in size that abuts Reed School House Road and Hope Furnace Road is no longer available to PRA.

6. Concrete Plant Issue

Rita stated that the Mayor of Cranston and the Administration are offering Cullen Concrete \$1.9 M but has no plans on where the money will come from or how they came up with that number. Bob stated that the PRA will work toward having this property used as an open space and that the PRA should develop plans for developing this property for open space use by the general public. Bob stated that he could get a landscape architect to develop a schematic of the property.

7. Annual Report

Bob stated that he will be meeting with an accountant on Wednesday January 9th and will receive at that time a copy of the 2006/2007 PRA Annual Report. Bob stated that the PRA currently has about \$600 in the bank. Bob stated that in April the accountant will begin working on the 2007/2008 report and should be able to complete the report for the May deadline for submittal to the Towns.

8. Pawtuxet Falls Fish-Passage

A public meeting will be held on January 29th at the Hall Library in Cranston – currently looking a partial dam removal.

9. Grants

- RI Legislative Grant awarded to PRA through Leo Blaise - \$1,000 for web development and maintenance.**
- The PRA will submit an application for a Historic Park Preservation Grant for the Pocasset/Cranston properties – PRA will request \$100,000 from RIDEM.**
- RI Trails Advisory Committee grant awarded – \$1,200 to improve signage on trails.**

10. Meeting with Neutaconkanut Hill Association Inc.

Bob stated that he recently met with the Neutaconkanut Hill association to discuss PRA involvement with revitalizing Neutaconkanut Hill area – on time ski area on the Providence/Johnston border. The association is looking into working with the PRA. Bob will be making arrangements to meet with the association in the future to discuss PRA involvement with this project.

11. New Business

Jack asked if the PRA needs any office furniture – Bob will develop a list.

Bob stated that the RIDEM has agreed to stock trout at the Harris Dam and at Veterans Square. PRA is trying to get RIDEM to also stock at River Point Park.

Hope Mill – RIDEM issued an action regarding work that was done at the mill.

Glenn noted that he had been told by the West Warwick administration that a check for FY 2007 will be submitted to the PRA.

12. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.