

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

**Monthly Board Meeting
March 2, 2009**

Board Members Present: Robert Nero, Jack Donovan, Jim McCaughey, Glenn Warfield, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Paul Lockett, Jack Lancellotta, Ross Adrain

Guest: Anthony Ricci (Johnston)

Location: Cranston WWTF

Board Members Absent: Michael Maddalena, Arthur Langlais, Fritz Benz, Ginny Leslie, Brian Manning (ill)

1. Call to Order

Noting that a quorum was present Chairman Nero called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. The February minutes were reviewed and discussed. Bob made a motion to accept the motion was seconded by Scott – all in favor.

2. Riparian Buffer

Bob discussed some background on the Riparian Buffer project particularly with respect to required match funding. Bob suggested that the PRA decline the grant funding at this time. Glenn asked if declining this funding would be held against the PRA with respect to obtaining future funding. Jim stated that he felt that nothing would be held against us if we declined the funding at this time. Glenn made a motion that the PRA decline the Riparian Buffer Grant Scott seconded the motion – Ross brought up the option of talking to the Conservation Districts to see if they were willing to contribute services. Bob presented the motion that the PRA formally decline these grant funds - vote - Ross opposed, Paul and Jack abstained remainder agreed to decline the grant. Ross asked if any of the Board Members were members of the Northern or Southern Conservation District- none were. Ross went on to say that these organizations are generally always interested in working on these types of projects. Discussion took place regarding on-going and planned PRA projects. Bob suggested that a meeting be arranged between these organizations and the PRA. Ross volunteered to identify some contacts at both of these Conservation Districts.

3. Fish Passage Project

Rita discussed a meeting between PRA members and RIDEM in February. At that time discussion took place regarding the use of dedicated funds and managing match funds. Glenn asked if Centerville Bank has agreed to give the PRA a line of credit. Bob stated that they have not. Scott inquired about the status of the design of the project. Bob stated that at present no design is in place but current plans are focusing on dam removal not a fish ladder. Bob went on to say that if permits cannot be obtained to remove the dam then the PRA will have to start looking into designing a fish ladder. Discussion took place regarding the history of the dam. Bob stated that the portion of the dam owned by the PRA was once owned by the

City of Providence Water Board. Bob stated that RIDEM has to issue a permit to diminish the wet lands – as part of the dam removal. Rita said that Tom Ardito stated that a sediment plan, a riparian buffer plan, and shore line restoration plan are needed. Bob stated that he will make arrangements to have Tom Ardito make a presentation on this project at the next meeting.

4. Long-Short Term PRA Planning

Next Meeting – March 10th 2009 – Scott will call Jim regarding a meeting location. Ross noted that he received a response from some PRA members regarding a canoe trip down the river. Ross has two 17 foot canoes and some wet gear. Ginny and Rita will coordinate a Sunday Canoe trip on March 8th or 15th.

5. New Business

Glenn brought up the issue of obtaining a third quote on fencing at the Canoe Site. Bob stated that he will take care of this.

Bob noted that the PRA has received the funds for the Canoe Project through the RI Trails Advisory Committee - \$31,000 - the City of Warwick was reimbursed for their payments to the contractor.

Bob introduced the evening's guest – Mr. Anthony Ricci. Antony stated that he is a member of the Johnston Historical Society and on March 15th the Society will be holding a Kick-Off for the 250th town anniversary. Bob stated that the PRA will have a booth at this event and will promote plans for conducting a clean-up in Johnston this summer. Anthony gave the PRA a contribution that will be matched by Verizon and further stated that the Verizon Foundation will be giving the PRA two \$750 grants each year.

Discussion took place regarding the historical significance of the Morgan Ave. site on Neunaconette Hill in Johnston and the possibility of the PRA purchasing portions of this property for open space consisting of 8 acres – at a cost of about \$150,000. Discussion took place regarding a partnership between various conservation associations.

Glenn asked about final dates for upcoming Canoe Launch events - Rita stated that they are:

- Thursday June 4th – Dedication
- Saturday June 6th – Paddle/Canoe Event

Bob brought up the Clean-Up schedule for this spring/summer months.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM