

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

**Monthly Board Meeting
Aspray Boat House Warwick
August 3, 2009**

Board Members Present: Robert Nero, Jack Donovan, Rita Holahan, Glenn Warfield, Brian Manning, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Michael Maddalena, Jim McCaughey, Fritz Benz, Scott Goodinson, Ross Adrian, Gary Trott

Board Members Absent: Arthur Langlais, Jack Lancellotta (excused)

1. Call to Order

Noting that a quorum was present Chairman Nero called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM Fritz motioned to accept the minutes from the May and July meeting be accepted as corrected seconded by Brian - all in favor.

Welcome to new member Gary Trott from West Warwick.

2. Trash Containers

Bob noted that the PRA now has wire mesh trash containers at the Howard Property, the Lincoln Ave of the River Walk and at Veterans Square.

3. Hydro Project

Bob noted that some PRA members (Bob, Jack D. Fritz, and Jim) toured several dams along the Pawtuxet River to see if they were amenable to hydro-power generation including:

- The Anthony Dam**
- The Garland Pen Dam**
- Two Clariant Dams**

Bob noted that the Essex Partner and the PRA are currently talking with the various dam owners along the Pawtuxet – the PRA owns one dam and the Essex Partnership will be putting together the financing for the project, managing the licensing, and overseeing engineering operations. The PRA will help to promote this project through public education efforts. Fritz stated that licenses have to be filed by September. Ginny asked if a fee was involved. Fritz stated that he was not sure about costs at this time. Ross asked how this project

was in the best interest of the PRA. Bob pointed out that having some development rights over the dams along the Pawtuxet will allow the PRA to better protect the environment on the river through better dam management. Fritz noted that many communities have abandoned the upkeep of existing dams and that through hydro-power development the dams will gain value and be better maintained. Rita noted that the PRA is still investigating the number and hydro-power applicability of the dams on the Pawtuxet. Ross and Ginny suggested that the PRA take out the licenses in place of Essex. Bob noted that the PRA has no experience with FERC licenses while Essex has many years of experience. Fritz noted that the PRA has a draft Letter of Intent from Essex that needs to be reviewed by the PRA "Hydro" - Ad-Hoc Subcommittee. Fritz suggested that we have a mid-month meeting with the Essex Partnership – August 18th 2009 – 5:00 PM – Scott will make arrangements for a facility.

Dam construction issues – Bob and Ross gave a lecture on dam construction and mill energy generation.

4. Long Term Planning

New PRA Headquarters – Bob stated that we have two prospects – the RIDEM Parks and Recreation Depot off of Warwick Ave. and a facility in Fiskville in Cranston. Ginny stated that the Warwick Ave facility could be used as an educational facility and that the

Champlain Foundation has in the past funded similar projects. Ginny stated that property on Commercial Street in Pawtuxet Village may be available. Scott noted that due to the present situation with the Harris Mill it is imperative that the PRA remove all of its property from the mill as soon as possible. A Long-Term Committee Meeting on possible PRA headquarter locations is scheduled for August 20th time and location to be determined.

5. Lakewood Property

Bob noted that fourteen acres are available for PRA quick-claim - Rita suggested that the PRA offer to pay for legal fees.

6. Knight Street Property

Bob stated that this property adjacent to the river of Knight Street and is being offered to the PRA. Jim McCaughey will perform a Phase I Environmental Assessment of the property. Bob noted that some landfill activities have taken place on the property. Ginny expressed concern for allowing the general public on contaminated property. Ross asked about liability associated with owning contaminated property – Bob responded that anyone owning contaminated property is fully liable for that property and any exposure to the public. Bob noted that grant funds are available from RIDEM to conduct site assessments.

7. Biodiesel Project at the Howard Property

RIDEM Issues – Bob stated that the PRA has made an offer to lease a portion of the PRA Howard property to a bio-diesel company but they have not yet responded – in the mean time Bob has started to investigate issues concerning hazardous materials currently on that site. Initial investigations indicate that further information is needed to make a final determination.

8. Veteran's Square Project

Money Issues w/RIDOT – Bob stated that we are waiting for money from a RIDEM grant. Bob went on to say that in 2002 the PRA was awarded a \$48,000 grant from RIDEM and RIDOT to connect two portions of the River Walk and when that project did not go forward Bob reapplied to use the money for the Veterans Square Project. The money was, however, eventually “frozen” and subsequently the funds were redistributed to other projects.

9. New Business

Mashapaug/Roger Williams Park/Spectacle/Tiogue Watershed Project – Bob stated the PRA will be involved with a Pond Study using a \$1,200 ESS “Gift Certificate” purchased for \$100 at a recent environmental auction.

Ginny stated that the Friend's of the Pawtuxet are looking for some locations to plant trees – Bob suggested the Howard Property. Timing of the planting has not yet been determined.

Ginny noted that Jan Reitsma contacted her regarding grant funds for a canoe launch off of Wellington Ave. Jan wanted to let the PRA know that a request had been made to transfer these funds to another project. After some discussion it was decided that the PRA has no objections to the transferring these funds.

Glenn announced that he is unfortunately no longer a voting board member but wanted to formally recognized Rita's efforts with the PRA Canoe Launch Project. Some discussion took place regarding a fall foliage event.

The September Board Meeting will be on the 14th.

Bob noted that Mike's interest in the environment and involvement with the PRA was recently highlighted in the Cranston Herald.

10. Adjournment:

The PRA Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.