

**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
September 14, 2009**

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

Guests: Ginny Leslie, Glenn Warfield

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

1. Call to Order

**Noting that a quorum was present Chairman Nero called the meeting
to order at 7:29 PM.**

Based on a review of the August minutes Ginny noted that under item

number 3 regarding the hydro project – she had “questioned” the issue of permits but did not suggest that the PRA take out the applications. Fritz motioned that minutes from the August meeting be accepted as corrected seconded by - all in favor.

2. New PRA Headquarters

Bob stated that the Harris Mill has been purchased. Bob will find out who purchased the mill. Fritz asked about new headquarters. Ginny asked if the new owners might allow the PRA to stay for a while. Bob will address these issues with the new owners. Bob stated that a couple of store front buildings have been looked at in Coventry one of these facilities cost about \$1,050/ per month. Jack looked at 111 Main Street in Coventry – they want \$500/month. Another potential location just up the street wants \$695/month. Fritz asked how we could pay for rent. Bob noted that it is imperative that the PRA get more money from the cities and towns. Bob proposed a target of \$5,000 from each city and town. Fritz suggested sending a letter to each town – Bob stated we will need to do more than just send a letter. Fritz suggested having the PRA attorney draft a letter - Glenn pointed out that the Board voted in May to have just such a letter written and sent to the cities and town. Ginny suggested sending the letters to the Chief Executive Officers and town council members. Bob noted that the annual report will be completed and sent out in a few weeks.

3. Treasurer Report

Bob noted there is currently \$7,128.13 in the PRA General Account. General discussion took place regarding restricted PRA accounts.

4. Hydro Project

Bob stated that the PRA met with the Town of Coventry on September 9th to discuss their interest in this project. During the meeting Jack presented the PRA's interest in this project. It was Bob's impression that the four dams owned by the Town of Coventry may not be sufficient size to warrant a hydro-electric system. Bob noted that the Essex Partnership and the PRA will be meeting with Bradford Soap Works and Garland Pen regarding their dams. Rita asked if we had a finalized letter of understanding with the Essex Group. Bob stated that he will follow-up on this question.

5. Veteran's Square Project

Bob noted that the PRA has a \$46,000 grant to conduct work at Veteran's Square. Bob has some questions regarding how the money can be utilized at the facility and is awaiting guidance from the granting agency - DOT. Bob said these questions have been put forth and we are awaiting response. Bob stated that he received a quote of \$18,000 to repair the shed floor. Paul asked if the shed could be used as an office – Bob noted a lack of insulation, heat and plumbing makes use as an office unlikely.

6. Biodiesel Project at the Howard Property

No news on this project.

7. New Business

National Historic River Designation – Bob proposed that the PRA pursue Pawtuxet River designation as a National Historic River from the USEPA. Both the Blackstone and Woonasquatucket have this designation. Ginny noted that the Blackstone first received designation as a historic river corridor. Ginny volunteered to make some calls to find out what is involved with this designation. Bob made a motion to investigate the Historic Designation – seconded by Brian – all in favor.

Crompton Mills - Ross noted that the Crompton Mill consisting of nine buildings is up for sale for a little over \$600,000. Bob stated that the PRA should “look” into this a bit more.

8. Adjournment:

The PRA Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.