

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

618 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816

401 615-7039

www.pawtuxet.org

MINUTES

Monthly Board Meeting

Cranston WWTF - April 5, 2010

Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Fritz Benz (left 9 p.m.), Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellotta (left 8:50 p.m.), Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Michael Maddalena, Brian Manning, Carl Mattson, Ed Soltys, Gary Trott

Board Members Absent: Ross Adrain, Arthur Langlais

Guests: Peter Eldridge, Dan Gorka

Call to order

Chairman Bob Nero called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. A quorum was present. The agenda was adjusted to allow presentations by Peter Eldridge of the West Warwick WWTF and Dan Gorka of the Cranston WWTF about the status of the plants after the recent flooding.

Treatment Facilities Updates:

Peter Eldridge reported on progress in getting the West Warwick plant back in operation. The plant is located on the 100 year

floodplain and the secondary treatment facilities were underwater, despite efforts of sandbagging. The primary clarifiers (settling tanks) are up and running now; they are adding bleach to the effluent instead of the usual ultraviolet treatment. He estimated the plant is now about 10% operational and he expects secondary treatment to be up and running in another two weeks. Engineers are now cleaning the motors and pumps. He expects it will be a month or two months before all is back to normal. The generator will be relocated to avoid a recurrence of it being flooded. AMGEN, the town's biggest single water user, is trucking some of their wastewater elsewhere while repairs are being made. Mr. Eldridge distributed copies of a memo to R.I. Emergency Management Authority from facility engineers James J. Geremia & Associates outlining the problems and work being done to solve them

Dan Gorka reported on the damage and progress at the Cranston facility, which endured two record floods in the month of March. He explained that the Cranston facility is higher than the Warwick and West Warwick plants. The staff in Cranston had done some studies recently with their insurer to minimize flood damage and had instituted several of the recommendations of that study. Most of the issues in Cranston were not at the plant but at pumping substations. The large Pontiac substation was two feet underwater, but was back to normal by Friday morning. The flows are still high but he expects them to be back to normal in another week or so. New generators have been ordered for the pumping stations and should be here

soon; they were ordered when the weather forecast indicated heavy rains.

Bob Nero provided some statistics on monitoring at the Pawtuxet River gauge. Of the top ten floods reported in the 71 years that gauge has been in operation, six have happened in the last five years and three of the top five have happened in the last two years. He suggested that the three plants collaborate with the PRA, as an agent for funding, to get equipment to share in emergencies.

Mr Gorka reported that they will be making some modifications to the pumping stations; some of the electronic equipment will be raised up higher. He also noted that National Grid had some major substations flooded as well.

Scott Goodinson provided information on the Warwick facility. They will be running primary treatment sometime this week; they are now pumping sludge out of the clarifiers. They are now chlorinating the effluent before pumping it into the River. Bob read a memo from Scott regarding the plant. Residents and businesses have been asked to reduce their water use.

Bob thanked Messrs Eldridge and Gorka for their reports and for the efforts made by the staff of the facilities.

Thanks to ..::: Bob reported that we will send written thanks to our two speakers as well as a thank you to Viola for the truck. In addition,

there are three people from Hope Village who have been taking water samples for several years. He wants to acknowledge their efforts and maybe bring them to a meeting.

New board member: Ed Soltys of Warwick introduced himself. He lives in the Cowesett area and works for Viola in the Woonsocket facility. He used to work in Cranston. He said that the Woonsocket plant on the Blackstone maintained primary treatment throughout the flooding and should be back to normal on Friday.

Tomorrow Biofuels: Bob provided some background information and an update on the Howard Conservation Area and our pending agreement with Tomorrow Biofuels. Mr. Dressler has completed the survey and would like to finalize the deal quickly. He has a new proposal with a graduated rent scale: \$833 per month in 2010, \$916 per month in 2011 and \$1,000 per month in 2012. He also now wants to use more land. Bob believes we don't have enough information now to take a vote, but he will send information to members and get a vote by e-mail before the next meeting.

Agreement with DEM re Howard Conservation Area pollution: The PRPs of the former Capuano landfill have offered the PRA donation of \$30,000 to encourage us to sign the Environmental Land Use Agreement with DEM. The contaminated groundwater from the landfill has damaged our property; a new cap will be put on the landfill that should stop this source of pollution. Bob said that

anything (including testing and inspections) that DEM requires will have to be done. Bob wants assurances that we will have some recourse if the pollution continues after the capping. The PRA should not have to bear the costs of testing and inspections.

There was general agreement that if the PRA gets necessary assurances that we will not be liable and the PRPs agree to donate \$50,000 to the PRA, Bob will negotiate to sign the agreement. Rita voiced concerns over monitoring – we want to see all the results. Bob agreed to send e-mails to keep board members posted on the progress of the agreement.

West Warwick funding: Jack Lancellotta reported that he, Gary and Ross met with the finance director. The money was in the budget but the town manager took it out. They want to sit down with the town manager and the town council president and discuss the town giving the PRA the Veterans Square property and/or the Natick Dam in lieu of past years' payments. Gary said that the \$5,000 is still in the budget for 2010-2011, but it was in the budget last year and they never paid us. The town council meeting will be held tomorrow night (Tuesday, April 6).

Spring Clean-ups: After the flooding, the focus will be on cleaning up PRA properties. The Phenix-Harris Riverwalk had been scheduled for Saturday, April 10th, but Bob instead announced that we will be working at Veterans Square which sustained a lot of damage from the

flood. The dock was lifted out of the water and there is a lot of debris, much of it natural, on the site.

On April 17th, PRA will be at Roger Williams Park and will be providing food. There is a lot of debris that has washed down onto the Howard Conservation Area and that site will be cleaned up on April 24th. Paul Lockett and Rita will be coordinating the clean-up at Blackamoor Pond in Cranston.

Bob reported that the Army National Guard will assist with removing large items out of the river. He will get more details later this week. Scott Goodinson reported that there is a lot of junk around Belmont Park, including a desk in a tree.

Bob strongly urged all board members to help out at the clean-ups. He said that we can now edit our website and put clean-up information on it.

Consortium of R.I. river organizations: Bob said he had been contacted by Jenny Perreira of the Rhode Island Foundation. She wants to get a consortium of Rhode Island river groups together to discuss flooding issues. The PRA could host this event.

Laptop and projector: After much research and comparison shopping, Bob purchased a laptop, a projector and additional software with grant monies from the state legislature.

The Flood of 2010: Bob provided a summary of some statistics relating to the flood. It exceeded the existing record by six feet;

previous exceedances were by a few inches. The March 15th flood, a new record, was 14.93 feet above normal; on March 29th, it was 20.79 feet. He said there has never been anything like this flooding in Rhode Island. Part of this was due to a wet February and a very wet March, plus years of overdevelopment of the watershed and building and paving in floodplains.

Rita then showed a slide show of pictures she, Bob, Scott and others had taken at several sites in the watershed during and after the flood. Members shared their experiences of the event.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was approved at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Leslie, Secretary

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

618 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816

401 615-7039

www.pawtuxet.org

MINUTES

Monthly Board Meeting

Warwick WWTF

March 1, 2010

Board Members Present: Ross Adrain (left at 7:20), Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Michael Maddalena, Brian Manning, Carl Mattson, Gary Trott
Board Members Absent: Fritz Benz, Arthur Langlais, Bob Nero (excused)

Presentation by Larry Dressler

Prior to the call to order, Larry Dressler of Tomorrow BioFuels gave a presentation on his company's plans to build a pilot plant at the Howard Conservation Area for producing biodiesel fuel using algae. He provided some history of his family's background in the field of vegetable oils and his research into various feedstocks to produce biofuel. He showed his preferred location for the facility on aerial photographs of the property; the plant would require under an acre of land and would avoid the 100 year flood zone. Next steps include a survey to see exactly what property would be available, construction of a cement pad, erection of a greenhouse with a fence around the perimeter of the property. He expects the site will be a showplace to bring investors. He has met with RIDEM and the City of Cranston Planning Department and sees no problems or need for a site plan review. He said his start-up time could be as early as this summer. He has funding lined up, including a grant from the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund.

Call to order

In the absence of Chairman Nero, Vice Chairperson Rita Holahan called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. A quorum was present.

West Warwick funding: The agenda was adjusted to allow Ross Adrain (who had to leave early because of another commitment) to provide a recap of actions to date on attempts to get funding from West Warwick. He, Jack Lancellotta and Gary Trott met and discussed strategy. Ross has met with the town manager and with the finance director. On March 16th, there will be a meeting of the town manager and town department heads to discuss their needs; the finance director suggested that the PRA attend this meeting.

Welcome to new Coventry board member: Carl Mattson introduced himself and provided some background on his work in his own business in the energy field.

January and February meeting minutes: In the January minutes, a change was made to indicate that Jack Lancellotta was excused from the meeting. On a motion by Scott, seconded by Jack Lancellotta, the January minutes were approved with that change.

In the February minutes, wording about Cranston funding for the PRA's operation was changed per Rita's request. Brian pointed out that he had attended the hearings on Sherwood Valley and Knollwood Estates in Coventry. The word "(excused)" will be deleted after Gary

Trott's name in the attendance list. On a motion by Brian, seconded by Scott, the February meeting minutes were approved with these changes.

Ginny Leslie approved as secretary: On a motion by Jack Lancellotta, seconded by Paul Lockett, the board unanimously voted to approve Ginny as the new secretary for the PRA.

Stop & Shop Conservation Easement: The developer of the property on Warwick Avenue in Cranston and the City of Cranston indicated that they saw no problem with assigning the planned conservation easement (approximately 10,000 square feet) on the proposed Stop & Shop property to the PRA instead of the City of Cranston. The parcel abuts the River that will contain the outfall of the drainage for the detention ponds and allow public access to the River. After securing phone and e-mail agreement from members preceding the March board meeting (to meet a deadline), Rita submitted a letter to the City, signed by the Boqard Chair, requesting the City's assignment of the easement. The board approval prior to the March meeting was officially voted on with a motion by Brian, seconded by Paul Lockett; the board voted unanimously to request the easement. Rita said she expected the easement would eventually be granted but the City had no idea of the timing.

PRA Funding For FY 2011

West Warwick: Jack Lancellotta said that he does not believe the

town will make payments for previous years. He explained that he, Ross and Gary had met for four hours to discuss strategies and they agreed to push for transfer of property at Veterans' Square and the Natick Dam from the town to the PRA in lieu of back years' payments.

Jack recommended that we wait until after the March 16th budget meeting before considering legal action. Jack and Gary want to send a letter outlining the PRA's case with an official request and budget to the council members, town manager, town finance director and town clerk. Rita said she would e-mail Jack, Gary and Ross to work out the language for this letter.

Coventry: Brian and Jack Donovan met with the new town manager and educated him on the PRA. They gave him a copy of the budget and the statute requiring the municipalities to fund the PRA's operations. The town manager indicated that the Town Council would decide on funding. Jack made it clear that the PRA should be a line item in the town budget, not on a list of charities. There will be some workshops and meetings on the budget, with a financial town meeting in June.

Warwick: Ginny and Scott met with Mayor Avedisian for over an hour, providing him with our annual report, budget, the statute and history of payments. In Warwick, the mayor comes up with a budget and then sends it to the council for approval/changes. The Mayor made no promises and said that he had some concerns over the years that Warwick PRA representatives don't stay on the board. Scott also suggested two churches in Pontiac as possible PRA homes; he said he would check on the availability of space there.

Ginny and/or Scott will reconnect with the mayor within a couple of weeks.

Events: Spring Clean-ups: There will be several sites this year: (1) Roger Williams Park (a consortium of community and environmental groups will work there on Saturday, April 17; the PRA will not be the lead in this effort; (2) Randall Pond – April 24th and 25th; (3) Howard Conservation Area – no date set yet; we have some people who have to do community service, may be in early May; (4) Arkwright Riverwalk – the boardwalks need work; Rita may have a group of apprentice carpenters. Jack Donovan urged that we use materials made of recycled material.

Other events: The Randall Pond community meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12th at 6:30 in the George Peters Elementary School. The Great Pawtuxet Paddle will be held in June. Ginny will check on dates of Gaspee Days and Friend of the Pawtuxet events.

Pawtuxet Hydropower Regional Energy Coalition: Jack Donovan and Brian attended the February 16th meeting of this group, which was hosted by the Coventry Town Manager and attended by town and state officials, and dam owners (including representatives from Garland Pen and the Hope Mill). The Essex Partnership gave a presentation. Participation agreements should be ready by the next meeting of the coalition.

Phenix-Harris Riverwalk: Jack Donovan asked if anyone knew anything more on the trash can vandalism; no one did. Rita reported that a neighbor's fence had been damaged by a fallen tree; she is waiting to hear if the damage would be covered by our insurance. At the nearby Holiday Products site in Harris, the permits are still all set and some new partners are involved with this dormant project to develop residential condominiums and to provide an easement to the PRA and build a bridge to connect the Phenix-Harris and Arkwright Riverwalks.

Pawtuxet Village fish passage: Rita reported that the sediment sampling plan was approved; it includes sampling at eight sites all the way up to Belmont Park. Tom Ardito hopes to get the sampling done in March and will meet with DEM to review the results. If the sampling results are good, he hopes to get the application for the dam removal submitted this month. He is still looking at late summer for the start of the dam removal.

An article in the Warwick Beacon quoting Representative McNamara included many false statements about the project and the PRA. Tom Ardito sent a letter in response, which was printed. After the latest sediment test results are in, the project leaders want to meet with local mayors, planning departments and city council members to discuss the project.

Howard Conservation Area trail development: Rita reported that we have submitted a grant proposal to the R.I. Recreational Trails

Committee for \$100,000 to develop a 1 ½ mil trail system along the river. Rita secured a commitment for labor to build bridges and boardwalks. She said we will reach out to the companies in Howard Industrial Park for support.

Randall Pond project: Mike Maddalena provided an update on the grant we received from the Rhode Island Rivers Council after getting a land donation of property on the pond a couple of years ago. The grant was to have a survey done and construct a walkway and canoe launch. Bob Nero spoke with Bob Dimaio, owner of a business on the pond that is next to a vacant lot. Mr. Dimaio offered to donate the lot to the PRA. This parcel is much better for a canoe launch than the parcel already donated to the PRA; it is much closer to the road (therefore requiring a shorter boardwalk) and has nice trees and few invasives. Mr. DiMaio would like the site to be named after his family; the PRA would pay for any legal fees involved in the property transfer and would construct a barrier between his business and this property.

There will be an information meeting for the community on May 12th. At that meeting, we will let the residents know about the PRA and our plans to create a Randall Pond Conservation Area.

Potential property donations: Scott reported that he has twice e-mailed Attorney Flaherty, who represents the family who owns the 11-acre parcel downstream from the Amtrak bridge in the Norwood

section of Warwick. The attorney has not gotten back to Scott.

Workshops/meetings of interest: The Land & Water Conservation Summit will be held at URI on March 27; the PRA can send two representatives. There will be two NRCS/City of Cranston workshops on Wetland Restoration Project in Cranston on March 9 and 10. The March 9th workshop, to be held in Cranston Council Chambers in City Hall, will cover three sites, Fay Field area, Blackmore Pond and the area of the Pocasset/Pawtuxet confluence.

DEM will be awarding grants of up to \$2,000 for 2010 Earth Day Clean-up and beautification projects. The Howard Conservation Area is a potential site, possibly for tree planting.

Adjournment

On a motion by Scott, seconded by Jack Lancellotta, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Leslie, Secretary

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

618 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816

401 615-7039

www.pawtuxet.org

MINUTES

Monthly Board Meeting

West Warwick WWTF

February 1, 2010

Board Members Present: Robert Nero, Ross Adrain (left at 8:45) , Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson (left at 9:15), Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellota (left at 8:40), Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena (left at 8 p.m.), Brian Manning, Gary Trott

Board Members Absent: Fritz Benz (excused), Arthur Langlais

1. Call to order/ January meeting minutes

Chairman Nero called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was present. Since not all board members were able to open the document that acting secretary Ginny Leslie e-mailed, approval of the January meeting minutes was tabled. Ginny will re-e-mail the document to Jack Lancellota.

2. Old business

Budget request to towns for 2010-2011

1. Scituate: Bob reported that he and Fritz met with the Scituate Budget Committee. Fritz informed the committee that we are in great

need of funding and an office. Committee members asked a lot of questions and seemed generally interested in the welfare of the river. Despite fiscal problems in the town budget, they said they would do the best they could and wanted assurances that the other towns will be paying their share. The next step will be a town budget meeting in March. Bob will be checking to see if the PRA funding is a line item on the budget and will take action if it is not.

2. West Warwick: Ross Adrain followed up on his e-mail sent to board members outlining his activities. His councilwoman told him there is no opportunity for the public to request funding. Ross met with the town financial director and discussed the arrearages. The finance director was unaware of the state mandate requiring the towns to pay for the PRA's operations. When he reviewed the budget, the PRA was not included as a line item so he put it in and also included funds for us to get paid for the previous three years. The Finance Director will present this to the budget committee. The budget committee could take it out as a line item; if they do, we could attend a town council budget hearing. Ross, Jack and Gary are all willing to attend such a hearing. Ross will be notified in March if the PRA payment is included in the budget.

3. Cranston: Rita reported that we have received payment of \$5,540 from Cranston for the current year. The council will vote on the budget in May. Rita has been in contact with Emilio Navarro, chair of the Finance Committee and he said we should submit a renewal request for FY2011 and if there's a problem with that request, the PRA can make a presentation to the Finance Committee

4. Warwick: Ginny reported that she and Scott are scheduled to appear before the City Council Finance Committee on Wednesday, February 17th.

5. Coventry: Brian and Jack will set up an appointment.

The group discussed strategies for presenting our case to the towns. Rita agreed to e-mail copies of the updated budget to everyone. Bob stressed the importance of having all paperwork before the meeting, including the proposed PRA budget, history of the towns' contributions to the PRA, comparison of what all the towns have paid, the state law regarding funding of the PRA and the annual report.

Howard Property Environmental Land Usage Restriction Agreement

Bob distributed copies of this document which was prepared by RIDEM lawyers; they want us to acknowledge deed restrictions on part of our property because of contamination from the landfill. Usages would be limited (e.g., no residential use). Bob reported that our lawyer has not reviewed the document yet and asked the group to agree that we should sign the document pending approval by our lawyer. Rita said that she had discussed the project to re-cap the landfill with the project manager and he indicated that after re-capping, the levels of VOCs may go down; she suggested adding a paragraph to the document that would allow the restrictions to be removed if the counts go below an acceptable level. On a motion by Rita, seconded by Scott, the board voted to approve the agreement pending lawyer approval and adding the language proposed by Rita.

Search for new headquarters

Jack Donovan reported that the Royal Mills has ads running for office space. It was generally agreed that they would be looking for a high rent.

Ross asked if there was any property in West Warwick that the PRA might be interested in as exchange for overdue payments from the town for previous years. Bob suggested Veteran's Square and the Crompton Mill.

Hydro project

Bob e-mailed all board members a copy of an e-mail he received from Bruce DeGenarro of Essex Partnership. Bruce is seeking to set up a meeting with all partners in the Pawtuxet Hydropower Regional Energy Collaborative, which is made up of the owners of eight dams on the river. Essex expects to received funding from RI Economic Development Corporation to examine the structural integrity of the eight dams. Bob reported that the Hope Mill has a new owner and he is interested in hydropower. Clariant is selling its properties in Quidnick.

Biodiesel update

Bob has been in contact with Mr. Dressler who is out of town. He said he would come to our March meeting. He expects to start work at Howard within two months and has a meeting with DEM next week.

3. Old Business

Trails grant for Howard property: Bob is working on a grant application to be submitted to the Rhode Island Trails Advisory Committee. We will ask for \$100,000 which will include an extensive trail system with footbridges and elevated walkways. Rita and Ginny agreed to review it. Rita reported that Shalvey Brothers Landscaping has a pre-apprenticeship training program and we might get some donated labor for the project that we could use as a match.

Randall Pond Conservation Area: Regarding the grant we received for a survey of our property on Randall Pond in expectation of building a canoe/boat access to the pond, Bob reported that the property we own is not behind the bank as we had believed, but is the property next to it. This parcel has been dumped on (clean fill, concrete pieces) and is heavily vegetated. We would have to do a major clean-up and wetlands restoration. Since the pond is so far from the road at this point, about 250 feet of elevated walkway would be needed. There is another undeveloped parcel at the other end of Libera Street. Bob plans to contact the owner to discuss his plans for the property; Bob hopes to convince him to donate it to the PRA. That parcel would require less clean-up and a shorter walkway. The board agreed this would be a good course of action.

Proposed Stop & Shop, Warwick Avenue, Cranston: Ginny reported on her conversation with Steve Stycos of Friends of the Pawtuxet on the major issues relating to this development. They are: (1) Parking spaces. The developer wants 71 more spaces than the city requires;

(2) Saving large trees on the current Warwick Nurseries property, (3) Plantings near the river; the developer will restore the wetlands but Steve wants to be sure that access to the river is maintained, and (4) Re-using stone in an old well for the facings of the small dam where the outflow from the detention ponds will enter the river. Steve has written and spoken about these issues to the planning commission several times. Bob and/or Rita will attend the February 2nd planning commission meeting to address these concerns.

Sherwood Valley, Coventry: Jack Donovan reported on this proposal to build eight 24-unit 3-story buildings of apartment on 12.4 acres on New London Turnpike near Lake Tiogue. The surrounding area is single family homes and there is considerable neighborhood opposition to this much denser development. Jack, Brian and Bob attended the Coventry Planning Commission meeting regarding this project.

Knollwood Estates, Coventry: Jack Donovan, Brian and Bob attended the Planning Commission meeting regarding this proposed four single-family home cluster development on Camp Westwood Road near the Quidnick Reservoir. The homes would be built close to each other, leaving a large buffer area. Some neighbors are opposed to this (and perhaps any) development in this area, although Jack believes it conforms with best management practices. Bob and Jack will visit the site.

4. Adjournment

On a motion by Ginny, seconded by Jack Donovan , the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m. The next meeting will be March 1st.

Respectfully submitted

Ginny Leslie, Acting Secretary

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

618 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816

401 615-7039

www.pawtuxet.org

MINUTES

Monthly Board Meeting

West Warwick WWTF

January 4, 2010

Board Members Present: Robert Nero, Fritz Benz, Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Michael Maddalena

Board Members Absent: Ross Adrain (excused), Jack Lancellota, Arthur Langlais, Brian Manning (excused), Gary Trott (excused)

Prior to the call to order, Bob Nero distributed a list of names of city/town contacts to whom we will send the annual report and asked that changes be made if necessary. Paul Lockett and Jack Donovan indicated that they will get the correct information for their municipalities.

Bob e-mailed the narrative section of the annual report to board members; it includes expanded water quality data and a chart of impaired water bodies in the watershed. Not all present had reviewed the document. Board members discussed the proposed phosphate levels for the three wastewater treatment facilities, sources of phosphates and the difficulty in removing them.

1. Call to order/ December meeting minutes

Chairman Nero called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. A quorum was present. Changes were made to the December meeting minutes: (1) Attendance: Ross Adrain was present at the meeting; (2) Call to order: Jim McCaughey announced that this would be his last meeting. His term has expired and because of professional conflicts, he has decided not to continue on the board. Board members thanked him for his service. (3) New business: First item should read Pontiac Mill Complex and not Nylo Hotel; Text should read: Ginny noted that the owner of the Pontiac Mills is not properly maintaining the property and applied to the Warwick Historic District Commission (WHDC) to demolish Mill #3 (which is next to the Nylo Hotel) citing structural

deterioration. The WHDC denied the application but the decision can be appealed in court. Mill #1, the most historic of the remaining mill buildings, is not protected from the elements and will continue to deteriorate. The owner of the complex refused to make any commitment to make any improvements to Mill #1.

On a motion by Fritz Benz, seconded by Paul Lockett, the minutes were unanimously approved with the above corrections. The Town of Coventry is advertising on its website for a replacement for Jim.

2. New business

Budget request to towns for 2010-2011

Bob indicated that it will be a big challenge to get additional funding from the cities and towns. Each board member will go to his/her respective town and explain our needs. Bob will provide documentation of the history of the funding provided by each town and of the PRA's needs. The strategy will be to ask for an audience at the city/town Financial Committee meeting, usually held in late January. We will contact the person in each town who sets up the Finance Committee meetings to get on the agenda. Paul suggested sending a letter to the committee members highlighting the state law that requires the cities and towns to pay the PRA. It was agreed that lists would be prepared of what the PRA has done for each municipality and a watershed perspective would also be included. The annual report will be mailed to the town treasurer or other official.

Rita reported that last year, Emilio Navarro, Cranston councilman and chair of the Finance Committee told her that he couldn't

guarantee that the PRA would continue to get \$5,000 this year.

The board will meet again on Monday, January 18th at 6 p.m. to discuss strategy for these Financial Committee meetings. Scott will find a meeting place and advise members.

For projects in Scituate, Bob reported that there is a new owner for the Hope Mill and that any change to residential use there will require connection to the West Warwick treatment facility. The line could be placed along the Arkwright and Phenix/Harris Riverwalks and the PRA is willing to provide a right of way. The PRA might also be able to acquire the dam and fishing/canoe access site in Hope if the mill complex is developed.

3. Old Business

Senate Fiscal Grant: Bob reported that he investigated computer power point presentation projectors and found one with a laptop for about \$1,100. The grant is for \$1,000. The board gave their OK to spend the additional \$100 from PRA funds.

Ahlberg Property, Warwick: Scott asked Bob to get him the contact information on this parcel on the river just downstream from the Amtrak crossing. Scott will contact the owner and get the donation process going.

Trail in East Natick: Bob met with representatives from the East Natick Village Association and the Gifford Group (designers) regarding development of a trail around Father Tirocchi Field. The

neighbors are interested in putting in a canoe launch also. Bob suggested a possible site.

Headquarters search: The group discussed three possible places: (1) In Hope, a storefront next to the Yum Yum Store on Hope Furnace Road. Bob said it is in excellent condition and the rent is \$1,000 per month (he was not sure if any utilities were included). This location is very close to the river and could be available for other groups to use as a meeting place. (2) In West Warwick, New London Avenue/Cowesett Avenue: in a strip mall, near the south branch of the river. (3) In Coventry, on Tiogue Avenue near Benny's, near Tiogue Lake. Something will probably be available in April. It was generally agreed to wait on making any decision on a new home for the PRA until after our meetings with the cities and towns regarding funding and after the income from the biodiesel project gets firmed up.

Hydro project: Bob reported that this is moving along and that a grant request for a feasibility study has been submitted to the RI Economic Development Council. Bob will talk to our contact and get an update for the next meeting.

Biodiesel update: Bob will get in touch with Mr. Dressler for an update and possible presentation to the board at the February meeting. The lease has not yet been signed; it may have to be modified if Mr. Dressler needs additional land for this facility. Fritz

suggested we ask for an advance.

Pawtuxet Falls fish passage update: More sampling has been completed. Construction may begin in late summer of this year. The biggest task will be sediment removal; there will be a barge in Pawtuxet Cove and a long hose will suck up the sediment and send it out to the barge; it will be dumped at a site in Narragansett Bay.

Veterans' Square project: Bob reported that the funding is OK and DOT has received the scope of work for a new driveway, canoe launch and flowerbed along the road. The project will also include design for a lot on the other side of the river which will include a veterans' memorial (to be constructed by a veterans' group). We are waiting for Mike Moonan of Weston & Sampson to complete the design; the surveyor (Sheldon Survey) and wetlands biologist are ready to proceed.

Randall Pond: Bob provided an update on the grant we received from the RI Rivers Council for a survey and meetings with neighbors to promote stewardship of the pond. He has received a bid from Sheldon Survey and will get an additional bid from Coventry Survey. PRA Cranston board members will lead the neighborhood meetings; speakers from Save The Bay, DEM and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island could be included in the presentations.

Bethany property: Bob said he had received a proposal from Sheldon Survey for \$3,500 to survey this property, which has a huge amount

of trash dumped on it. Scott suggested putting up a gate to prevent further dumping. It was generally agreed that a survey of this property is a low priority.

Corporation status: Bob reported that he had gone to the Secretary of State's office to determine our non-profit status. He learned that we do NOT have to file annually with a list of officers and directors since we are a quasi-state agency. Currently, our name is on the Secretary of State's website but no information is provided. If we do file, we would provide a list of officers and have to pay a small filing fee. It was agreed not to pursue filing. Bob also said he was working on locating and compiling all mentions of liability in the R.I. General Laws as they relate to the PRA and its board members.

Truck: Bob reported that the truck is in the body shop. The floors have been repaired and they are working on the cab. A new bed was located in a junkyard and it will replace the existing one. PRA logos will be applied to the side doors.

4. Adjournment

On a motion by Paul, seconded by Jack, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ginny Leslie, Acting Secretary