

**Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council**

**8 Hope Furnace Road, Hope, RI 02831**

**401 615-7039 - [www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)**

**Monthly Board Meeting**

**PRA Office, Hope – July 8, 2013**

**Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Michael Breault, Jack Donovan (arrived 7:35), Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jimmy Johnson, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Steve McAllister, Bridget Skuce**

**Board Members Absent: Tara Digre**

**Associate Member Present: Ross Adrain (arrived 7:10 p.m.)**

**Call to Order**

**Mr. Nero called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. A quorum was present.**

**Approval of Agenda**

**The agenda was distributed and on a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Ms. Leslie, it was approved with the agreement to go into executive session for the Harris Dam discussion and the addition of an announcement about a new business in Pawtuxet Village.**

**Approval of June, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**On a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. McAllister, the board**

**approved the minutes as submitted.**

### **Annual Election of PRA Officers**

**The Nominating Committee provided the following slate of officers: Chairman: Robert Nero; Vice-chairman: Michael Breault; Treasurer: Rita Holahan; Secretary: Ginny Leslie. There were no nominations from the floor. Secretary Ginny Leslie cast one ballot for the slate. Mr. Goodinson was thanked for his service as vice-chairman.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Ms. Holahan provided and reviewed monthly reports for May and June, the 990 form which was submitted to the Internal Revenue Service, and financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2012. Relating to the 990 form, the Finance Committee will discuss development of a whistleblower policy and a conflict-of-interest policy.**

**She also discussed the Finance Committee's meeting with our accountant regarding the audit. One issue which the accountant discussed was the method of valuation of our properties: we used the city and town assessors' values of the properties at the time of acquisition, which are not necessarily representative of the current market value. The auditor also recommended that there be board approvals in the form of votes that are noted in monthly meeting minutes, of any grant agreements and contracts. For any issue regarding RIDEM, the minutes should reflect that Mr. Nero recused**

**himself from the discussions.**

**Mr. Nero said that according to the statute which created the PRA, the PRA is required to provide board members with a salary not to exceed \$500 per year. He believes checks for \$1.00 should be distributed to board members and that this should be included in the by-laws. Ms. Holahan said that the salaries should be included in the annual budget.**

**The Finance Committee should meet twice a month to work on development issues, including the fishing tournament and the website. They will meet this Friday at the PRA office at 6:30.**

#### **Arkwright to Phenix Riverwalk**

**Mr. Nero reported that our attorney hired a title search company to research our ownership of this property, which was purchased with other properties from Penn Central Railroad in the 1980s. The title search company's report to date is inconclusive. Mr. Nero and our attorney will continue to research the issue.**

#### **Executive session regarding Harris Dam**

**On a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. McAllister, the board voted to go into executive session at 7:52 p.m. The regular board meeting resumed at 8:00.**

#### **Old Kent Road Property Update**

**Mr. Nero reported that the owners of the property continue to contact him regarding the PRA's interest in purchasing some of the land. They continue to have to deal with the developer who lost the land at auction. They have had interest in the houselots with road frontage.**

**The PRA would be interested in land along the river, with access to the road. RIDEM has not yet announced a grant round. Ms. Holahan said it was important for the PRA to give the owners something in writing. Mr. Adrain said we should let the owners know we do want the 14 acres which cannot be developed and work on it step by step.**

**It was agreed that we should send them a letter stating that we are not in a position to purchase any property at this time. Mr. Nero agreed to draft a letter and e-mail it to the board for review.**

### **Fishing Tournament**

**Mr. Nero showed the draft flyer. The event will provide a 100% payout; all the money taken in in entry fees will be given out as prizes. We expect at least 40 boats and could accommodate up to 60.**

**He expects we would break even – we could make a small profit, but the main reason for the event is to promote the watershed. The date of the event has been moved to Saturday, September 14. Mr. Johnson said there is a lot of interest in the event, because of the appeal of Johnson's Pond and the 100% payout.**

### **New Business**

**Natick Dam hydro project:** New England Hydropwer Company, LLC is interested in purchasing the Natick dam for hydropower. There was a referendum question approved at the West Warwick financial town meeting to sell the town's portion of the dam; Robert Cioe is a principal in the company and he already owns the Warwick side of the dam. They have applied for a license from FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The license process is very rigorous. The PRA will be involved as a stakeholder; Mr. Nero said he'd like to see a park there to allow fishing for the public and there is a place to put a fish ladder. Our attorney will help to set up a meeting with the principals to discuss these issues.

**New kayak rental business:** Ms. Leslie reported that a kayak rental business has opened in Pawtuxet Village. She will make contact with them.

**New board member from Scituate:** The Town of Scituate has asked for input on a new member; he is a retired orthopedic surgeon. Mr. Nero asked the town if we can interview him to determine his level of commitment.

**Project Committee:** Mr. Nero will send out an e-mail to set up a meeting of the Project Committee .

**Randall Pond**

**On a motion by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. McAllister, the board**

**voted to engage in a contract for a \$93,000 RIDEM grant to develop our property at Randall Pond.**

**Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Lancellotta, seconded by Mr. Maddalena, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ginny Leslie, Secretary**