

## **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 – August 5, 2013**

**Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Michael Breault, Tara Digre (arrived 7:10), Scott Goodinson, Jimmy Johnson, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Bridget Skuce**

**Board Members Absent: Jack Donovan, Rita Holahan, Paul Lockett, Steve McAllister**

**Associate Member Present: Ross Adrain (arrived 7:05 p.m.)**

**Guest Present: Dr. Larry Lupe, Scituate**

### **Call to Order**

**Mr. Nero called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present.**

### **Approval of July, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**On a motion by Ms. Skuce, seconded by Mr. Breault, the board approved the minutes as submitted.**

### **Approval of Agenda**

**The agenda was distributed and on a motion by Mr. Breault, seconded by Ms. Goodinson, it was approved with the additions of**

**updates on the Natick hydropower plant and on the Narragansett Bay Estuary Project and the introduction of the potential new Scituate board member.**

### **Potential New Scituate Board Member**

**Dr. Lawrence Lupe, a retired orthopaedic surgeon, was introduced to the board. He stated that he is a firm believer in conservation for the future and an enthusiastic fly fisherman.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**In Ms. Holahan's absence, there was no treasurer's report.**

### **Fishing Tourney**

**Mr. Nero reviewed the basics of the tournament on September 14 for Dr. Lupe. Board members and other volunteers will be given specific jobs to do; most of the workers will be needed in the morning to get the boats in the water and again in the afternoon when the fishing is done. Board members should solicit gifts for raffle prizes, including marine supply, bait and liquor stores and restaurants. Mr. Nero and Mr. Johnson will visit sporting goods stores. Mr. Nero will provide flyers and applications. Publicity opportunities were discussed. The Finance Committee will have a couple of meetings to work on the tournament.**

### **Arkwright to Phenix Riverwalk**

**Mr. Nero and our attorney Chris D'Ovidio recently visited all the**

parcels the PRA purchased from Penn Central Railroad in the 1980s. There was consensus that we should continue with the investigation. Mr. Nero agreed to discuss this with Mr. D'Ovidio and get an estimated cost.

### **Harris Dam Update**

**RIDEM has not fully reviewed the submission.**

### **New Coventry property**

**Jack Donovan alerted Mr. Nero about a property for sale on Route 117 (Main Street) in Coventry near the Coventry Community Center. It includes sixteen acres of wooded land on the south branch of the Pawtuxet with a stream, a pond and a ca. 1900 residence in good condition. Asking price is \$400,000; we could apply for a RIDEM Open Space grant. The DEM grant program has not been announced yet. Mr. Nero will contact the real estate agent to arrange a tour for board members.**

### **Natick Dam hydro project update:**

**Mr. Nero had a meeting with Robert Cioe and a representative from New England Hydropower Company, LLC in Natick. Mr. Nero told them the PRA wants public access on the river. They have agreed to give us an easement to land on the Warwick side to construct a trout fishing area and also provide parking on the street. On the West Warwick side, we want a fishing access on the pond. Mr. Nero provided them with photographs relating to the low level release**

outlet on the dam that they had not seen before and were very interested in. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license which they will need requires fixing the dam to FERC's high standards and providing anadromous fish passage. Mr. Adrain thought we should have at least a take-out for canoes and kayaks; there is no good put-in after the dam. A paddler might be able to put in at Father Tirocchi field further downstream, but that is a considerable distance from the dam.

### **New Business**

**Business cards: Messrs. Breault and Johnson and Mmes. Digre and Skuce need PRA cards.**

**Project committee: The committee met recently and agreed that the PRA cannot rely on board members to do regular maintenance of the PRA properties (tasks like debris removal, lawn mowing, vegetation control). Properties that need or will need regular maintenance include Norwood, Howard property (including Kinney Drive), Randall Pond, Phenix Harris Riverwalk, Harris dam and Pawtuxet dam property. Veterans Square seems OK at this point with Messrs. Nero and Adrain working to keep the lawn mowed and trash removed. Mr. Nero wants to put a sign up at Pawtuxet Falls identifying the parcel as belonging to the PRA.**

### **Randall Pond update**

**Mr. Nero is waiting for an answer from RIDEM on using the donation**

**of the land as a match for the grant. He hopes that once the weather cools off and some vegetation dies back, we will be able to start construction in October or November.**

**Adjournment: On a motion by Ms. Digre, seconded by Mr. Lancellotta, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Lancellotta requested that we have a motion of silence in memory of former West Warwick board member Michael Jordan.**

**Respectfully submitted, Ginny Leslie, Secretary**