

**Pawtuxet River Authority
& Watershed Council
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Board Meeting

May 2, 2016

Location: PRA Headquarters

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Robert Nero at 6:10 pm with 10 members and one guest present.

Members Present: Robert Nero, Chair; Scott Goodinson, Vice Chair; Charles Horbert, Secretary; Jack Donovan, James Sullivan, Paul Lockett, Michael Bedard, Jim Johnson, Mike Maddalena & Stan Brittsan. Note Paul DePetrillo arrived while the meeting was in progress.

Guest: Elizabeth Scott, Deputy Chief, RIDEM Office of Water Resources.

The agenda was approved by the membership (motion made by Mr.

Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Horbert).

Motion made by Mr. Bedard, seconded by Mr. Manning to accept the minutes of both the March 7, 2016 and the April 4, 2016 meetings. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for April 2016 as provided by Rita Holohan via e-mail was reviewed. Mr. Nero noted that the Annual Report would be due to the Cities and Towns soon. He also discussed various sections of the report. Also discussed was use of the line of credit obtained from Centerville Bank. Under terms of the loan, we are required to freeze \$40,000 of our funds to use funds from the line of credit. Mr. Nero will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this scenario with Rita and will make a decision as to whether to use those funds for Randall Pond. Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Maddalena, to accept the report. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Scott presented a Power Point presentation to describe the status of water quality in the watershed, and what it means. Some waterbodies in the watershed, notably the Pocasset and the Main Branch Pawtuxet, have impairments. Several ponds in the watershed, notably Curran Upper Reservoir, have been known to experience cyanobacteria blooms. Mercury in fish tissue is also an issue in some waterbodies. Ms. Scott also briefly discussed Stormwater Utility Districts and how they can be used for funding

improvements to stormwater runoff.

Cleanup Report: Mr. Nero provided a recap of our successful cleanup along the Pocasset River and Simmonsville Brook behind St. Rocco's Church in Johnston. We received a lot of participation from volunteers, particularly from Citizen's Bank corporate office and from the Johnston Police Explorers. 10 cu.yds. of trash was removed and placed in a dumpster donated by the Town of Johnston. We received donations of food from Dunkin Donuts and from the Original Italian Bakery. Mayor Polisenia and Councilman Delfino also showed their support.

Reports:

New State Record Fish: It was reported that a new State Record large-mouth bass was caught in Johnson's Pond on Saturday, April 30, 2016. It weighed 11 lbs. 2 oz.

Cranberry & Blackamore Ponds: ESS is starting field assessments for this project. We should receive a report by July. It was noted that there have been no observations of fish moving up the Pawtuxet yet this spring.

Randall Pond Project: We were successful in obtaining a line of credit to use on this project. As discussed under the treasurer's report, we need to decide whether to use it. Generally, most felt it was

the best way to proceed. Mr. Nero anticipates the contractor being ready to start in 2-3 weeks. He also would like to do another cleanup there. Stay tuned..

Pontiac Canoe Launch Repairs/Status: An Application for Regulatory Applicability was submitted to RIDEM for this work. Mr. Horbert stated that it had been given to Martin Wencek in the Freshwater Wetlands Program for review. Mr. Horbert is not confident that it will be successful. We are awaiting a decision from RIDEM..

Ross Simon Lot: Ag Core Technologies, our tenant, has submitted an application for a second greenhouse. It will need to be signed by the PRAWC.

Veteran's Square: Mr. Britsan is pursuing some assistance with new plantings at the garden here from a garden club and from Lowe's.

Spring Cleanups: We had several good cleanups in April. Mr. Nero would like to do a few more maintenance projects in the future.

Properties in General: Discussion of potential equipment purchases was made, including for a tractor, a chainsaw, and a brush hog.

The issue of a couple trees growing out of a wall near the Pawtuxet Falls (on river-left) was discussed. These trees are on private property. The property owner would like us to take them down. If left,

the trees will eventually damage the wall. This may be the case even if they are removed. A permit may be needed for renewal. Ultimately, it is the property owner's responsibility.

Paul Lockett discussed the need for additional signs at the Howard Conservation area. There was both agreement and disagreement on this need. Mr. Nero agreed provide a few more signs to be placed by Mr. Lockett.

New business:

Motion made by Mr. Bedard, seconded by Mr. Lockett to purchase a new chainsaw, with accessories, not to exceed \$500.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Lockett, seconded by Mr. Donovan to adjourn. Motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday June 6, 2016