

**Pawtuxet River Authority  
& Watershed Council  
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## **Board Meeting**

**July 11, 2016**

**Location: PRA Headquarters**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting called to order by Chair Robert Nero at 6:15 pm with 13 members present. Mr. Nero introduced new members Jennifer Ryan (Warwick) and Carl Santucci (Cranston).**

**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, Paul DePetrillo, Jennifer Ryan and Carl Santucci.**

**The agenda was approved by the membership (motion made by Mr. Maddalena, seconded by Mr. Donovan.**

**Motion made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Goodinson to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2016 meeting. Motion passed.**

**Annual Budget: Treasurer Rita Holohan provided a draft Annual Budget (FY 2017) for consideration of the board. Items were explained by Mr. Nero. Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. DePetrillo to accept and adopt the budget. Motion passed.**

**Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's reports for May and June 2016 had been provided via e-mail by Rita Holohan. Mr Nero provided a summary of the reports. Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to accept both reports. Motion passed.**

**It was noted during the discussion of the budget that the PRAWC had received reimbursement by the Narragansett Bay Estuarine Project grant for funds expended on the new Utility Trailer in the amount of \$3780.00.**

**There was also a discussion regarding the status of our Treasurer, who per Mr. Nero has expressed an interest in stepping down from that position. Mr. Nero interviewed Sharon Johnson for the position. Hiring her would also mean using her company as our CPA for annual audits for potentially less cost. At this time, she is currently pretty busy and recommended that we keep Rita.**

**During this discussion, it was noted that PRAWC had been operating**

**under the presumption that it is categorized by the IRS as a 5.01(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are not. Our status is recognized as a 5.09 (a)(3) “Supporting Organization”. We can accept donations, but will need to make a disclaimer on receipts as to our status. We cannot, however, accept donations electronically since the “donate” button on the web site has not been linked to an account. Ms. Holohan has not gotten this done. The Board agrees it is very important that this gets done. If Ms. Holohan cannot get this done we may need to quickly pursue other options. Mr. Nero was asked to contact Ms. Holohan to express the Boards wishes that she make every effort to work with the web master to link the donate button to an account, preferably a newly created account intended to receive funds which can only be transferred by the Officers of the PRAWC to another account of the PRAWC. If she cannot or is unwilling to do this, we may ask her to resign the position in writing.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Santucci, seconded by Mr. Goodinson to table the matter of the Status of the Treasurer until the next meeting, presumably allowing Mr. Nero to contact Ms. Holohan. Motion passed.**

**Brush Cutter: Mr. Nero and Mr. Brittsan have been looking into seeking funds to purchase a DR Corp. large brush mower. PRAWC will be applying to the DEM Trails Grant in order to pay for it. Asking for \$3000.00. Estimated cost is \$3700. PRAWC would be expected to pay the balance as a our match from our own funds.**

**Nominations and Elections:** Mr. Johnson reported as Chair of the Nominating Committee that all current officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary) had been contacted and that all were still interested in serving in the same capacity. He received no other nominations.

A request was made by the Chair for any additional nominations. None were stated.

Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to close nominations. Motion passed.

Motion made by Mr. DePetrillo, seconded by Mr. Donovan for the Secretary to cast one ballot to elect the nominated slate of officers. Motion passed.

Elected officers for FY 2017 are Chair: Robert Nero; Vice Chair: Scott Goodinson; Secretary: Charles Horbert.

#### **Reports:**

**Family Fishing Derby:** The 2nd Annual “Bait the Hook” Family Fishing Derby held on June 25th was considered a success, although it was not heavily attended. The RIDEM provided posters and fishing poles for participants to use at the event, and had stocked the pond with trout. PRAWC provided bait, volunteers, and

**promotional materials. The Town of Coventry provided refreshments. All participants had a good time. Species caught included large-mouth bass, small-mouth bass, chain pickerel, bluegill sunfish, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow perch, and black crappie.**

**Randall Pond Project: Our contractor, SumCo Environmental Restoration, has essentially completed the dock to the edge of the marsh. We have not yet done enough man hours for a match and may need to cover the balance of our required match out of pocket. We will be seeking reimbursement from RIDEM upon payment to the contractor after all obligations of the contract are confirmed as met. We will plan for a soft opening with press releases sometime before winter. We will also need to seal the wood on the dock sometime this fall.**

**Pocasset Cemetery: Citizen's Bank employees accomplished another great cleanup along the Pocasset River at Pocasse Cemetery. 16 volunteers cleaned out a lot of junk, and left it in neat piles by the entrance for later pickup. Soon after that we got complaints from folks, who thought the piles were the result of illegal dumping. Mr. Maddalena, Mr. Nero and Mr. Sullivan went on a weekday to remove the piles (3 truck loads) for disposal at the Central Landfill.**

**Hill Street Property: There has been a lot of drinking occurring here. We will need to position another trash can here. It was discussed that we should clear-cut the dam abutments here to provide less cover for**

people to hide while drinking or to hide their trash. This may or may not be an exempt activity under RIDEM Wetlands Rules. Mr. Horbert will check on this to confirm.

**Hope Mill and the Hope Spur:** Paramount Development, a prospective buyer for the Hope Mill, which is currently in receivership, has been speaking to Mr. Nero regarding the extension of a walking/biking trail along the former “Hope Spur” railway R-O-W from Hope Mill to where it joined the “Washington Secondary”, which is currently a bike path. PRAWC owns approximately 1.4 miles of this R-O-W. There are at least 7 large bridges (or former bridges) that need to be rebuilt or repaired along this stretch. While walking the route with the developer, Mr. Nero noted that there were several large trees down across the North Branch Pawtuxet blocking flow. We may need to work with the Town to clear this.

**Cranberry & Blackamore Pond Fish Passage Study:** Review and approval of the QAPP is still ongoing, and good progress is being made. We have been granted an extension on the grant.

**Pontiac Canoe Launch Repairs/Status:** A meeting was held with ESS and the contractor to finalize design plans for an application to RIDEM.

**Development Issues:** Mr. Nero explained that we have a lot of properties to manage and need to get them in shape and maintained.

**He does not anticipate getting into any big projects for the upcoming year. We need to build a volunteer base to help us out with projects and simple maintenance. We are hoping sometime to have sufficient funds to hire professional landscape help. In the meantime. We need to get whatever help we can.**

**New business:**

- **Pawtuxet Falls Restoration – interpretive signage is still needed to satisfy the final requirements of that project. It would be placed on the Warwick side. It was discussed that vegetation here would need to be trimmed to facilitate a sightline up the river. It is unclear whether clearing or trimming here would require a permit or whether it would be considered covered under the permit issued by RIDEM for the dam removal project.**

**Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. DePetrillo, seconded by Mr. Santucci to adjourn; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

**Next Meeting: Monday August 1, 2016**