

**Pawtuxet River Authority
& Watershed Council
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**Board Meeting
September 12, 2016
Location: PRA Headquarters**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Robert Nero at 6:10 pm with 11 members present.

Members Present: Robert Nero, Chair; Scott Goodinson, Vice Chair; Charles Horbert, Secretary; Jack Donovan, Paul Lockett, Michael Bedard, Jim Johnson, Paul DePetrillo, Jennifer Ryan, Brian Manning and Carl Santucci.

Associate Members Present: Ross Adrain

Guest in attendance: David Vallee, National Weather Service; Northeast River Forecast Center

The agenda was approved by the membership (motion made by Mr. Bedard, seconded by Mr. Horbert.

Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Donovan to defer review and acceptance of the minutes of the August 1, 2016 meeting until the October meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Reports: Treasurer's reports for July and August 2016 had been provided via e-mail by Rita Holohan. Mr Nero provided a summary of the reports. Mr. Bedard asked about the \$1000 in the restricted savings account from Centerville Bank that was designated for work at Veteran's Square. This work was done, and the contractor was paid out of checking. Therefore, this \$1000 should be transferred into checking. Mr. Nero will look into getting that done. Motion made by Mr. Horbert, seconded by Mr. Santucci to accept both reports. Motion passed.

Mr. Nero brought up the PRAWC's status with the IRS. He and the PRAWC's attorney reviewed the original letter (from 1993) received from the IRS. Based on this review, the conclusion is that the PRAWC operates as both a Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and (due to our statutorily designated income from the 5 cities and towns) a 509(A)(3) Supporting Organization (type 3). Donations are tax deductible. The income from Cities and Towns is not considered as donations. This came up since the Champlin Foundation stated that the PRAWC was not eligible for their grants due to our IRS tax

status. PRAWC will request an audience with the Champlin Foundation in order to try to get clarification or an explanation as to why we are ineligible.

The PRAWC Board at this time voted to go into closed session to discuss a few matters that were not to be discussed on the public record. The motion was made by Mr. Horbert and seconded by Mr. DePetrillo. The motion passed, and the closed session commenced at 6:28 pm.

The PRAWC Board exited closed session at 7:15 pm.

Guest speaker: Mr. David Vallee, head hydrologist for the NWS's Northeast River Forecast Center, and a native of West Warwick, provided an interesting presentation of current climatological trends and their implications for recent and future flooding frequencies and magnitudes.

Reports:

Cleanups: Mr. Nero will be scheduling several cleanups over the next several months. The first one is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 18 at 9:00 for the Phenix/Harris Riverwalk. This is contingent on the delivery of a recently purchased brush cutter. Mr. Nero will e-mail the board by this Thursday to confirm the cleanup. If

we do not receive the e-mail, the cleanup is assumed to be cancelled.

Brush Cutter: Mr. Nero and Mr. Donovan went to look at brush-cutting machines (aka brush-hogs) upon receipt of notification that RIDEM had approved our grant request. We originally planned to purchase their largest model, a 20-HP cutter. After viewing the various machines and trying them out, it was decided that the larger mower would be too big for easy handling and maneuvering. They decided on a smaller mower: It is a 14.5 HP, self-propelled, belt-driven single blade mower with 3 forward and 1 reverse speed that should be far easier to maneuver on slopes and in tight spaces. It will have a 26" cut. It is approximately \$1100 less than the unit we originally intended to purchase, and will also reduce the amount of match we will owe to RIDEM.

Oil Tank: Our oil tank started to leak and needs to be replaced. Mr. Nero explained the various options and costs. This will be brought up in New Business.

Randall Pond Project: We have received three bids to relocate and raise the walkway from the street and rip-rap the slopes to prevent street flow onto our property that is causing erosion around the new boardwalk and abutments. Mr. Nero has tentatively authorized one of the contractors to start. The cost is slightly more than \$5000 and can be used towards our match for the RIDEM grant.

Pontiac Canoe Launch Repairs/Status: Upon review of draft plans, Mr. Nero found that the consultant did not follow the agreed-upon design, and is working with ESS to revise the plans to reflect the agreed-upon design.

Development Issues: Mr. Goodinson reported that demolition is ongoing at the Pontiac Mills, with about 2 months of work estimated as remaining. The owners do not want to remove the dam, but may be interested in removing at least a portion of the walkway over the dam. PRAWC is interested in pursuing a fish passage project for this dam in the future.

New business:

- Motion made by Mr. Goodinson, seconded by Mr. Horbert to authorize an amount not to exceed \$800 for the removal and replacement of the oil tank, including recovering the oil in the existing tank and plumbing the feed lines as needed.

- Mr. Donovan reported that he was informed by a citizen that two large stones had fallen from the Arkwright Dam, upstream of the Harris Dam that we own. He is trying to determine the status of this dam. He was advised to contact Mr. Paul Guglielmino, the RI DEM State Dam Safety Inspector.

Motion was made to adjourn by Mr. DePetrillo, seconded by Mr. Santucci to adjourn; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday October 3, 2016