

# **Northern RI Conservation District (NRICD) Board Meeting**

**Minutes August 29, 2018**

**4:30 PM, 14 David Street, Greenville, RI**

**Present:**

**Executive Directors:**

**Marc Tremblay Matt Tracy**

**Dick Went Jean Lynch**

**Associate Directors: Paul Dolan, Paulette Hamilton**

**NRICD Staff:**

**Gina DeMarco, Molly Allard, Marina Capraro**

**NRCS Staff: Cassius Spears, Jermaine Jenkins**

**Guests: Linda Marini – Book keeping Contractor NRICD, Diane Couture**

**I. Minutes: Accepted. Lynch/Went**

**II. Treasurer's Report – Profit and Loss and Balance sheets received for audit with suggested amendments. Went/Lynch**

**Dick asked Linda if we are following GAP and she said yes.**

**III. Old Business**

**A. Building and Grounds –**

**1. Stairs have not been started and contractor said this week. Ted DeMarco repaired waste pipe that cracked in the basement. Cost for materials was \$276.75. Board expressed appreciation and chose to give Ted a gift card for \$100. Jean will pick it up. Went/Tracy**

**B. Snake Den Farm – Motion to allow Wicked Tulips to temporarily use the weedy front field for tulips this year providing that they mow and cover crop the field and that Kate develop a flexible lease for this**

**purpose. Went/Lynch Motion to give Kate authority to negotiate with AMC regarding a potential filming of a tv show in the barn. Any final decisions will be voted on at the September 11 meeting. Lynch/Went Decision on whether the first floor tenants can get a dog under 10 pounds will be tabled until September 11 meeting. Board asked that Kate provide them with more information on the policy we have written regarding pets and consider creating policy if we do not already have it including a policy of 3 strikes and pet is out; keeping pet on leash, etc. Tremblay/Lynch**

**C. Scituate Reservoir Watershed- Education Program – A new proposal for increasing outreach and education into providence has been submitted to the leadership of PW upon their request. The Forest Management Plan for Ponagansett School will continue into the next school year. The theme for 2018 – 2019 is “Clean Water Begins at Home”. The 2019 calendars are printed as designed by Naomi and are at the office. The teachers resource packets and new “Walter Splash” have been prepared by Molly.**

**D. NRCS- Cassius determined how to create a data base that specifies the amount of NRCS funds provided to landowners in each town. Board and staff expressed appreciation. Cassius reported on NRCS activities.**

**1. Outreach- Diane Petit is the new PAS for NRCS in RI. She is shared with Massachusetts.**

**2. EWP –Waiting for appraisals. Gina has been working with property**

owners and NRCS. A hazardous materials survey was completed by a contractor for NRCS last week on the site where the fire was located. Gina has been in contact with PRA. Mr. Nero stated they are very interested in receiving the land on the Pocasset Watershed once it is restored.

3. RCPP Soil Health- Going well. Kevin is being provided training.

4. RCPP - Regional Forestry- about 15 applications were received for easements. They have been ranked. A final decision has not been made.

5. RCPP Farm Conservation Plans/NACD TA: Marina is moving right along. Gina has put in a request to NACD to extend the NACD TA funds another 6 months because NRCS has been asking Marina to work on other projects under AT504.

E. Annual Dinner- Will be held October 20 at Varnum Armory in East Greenwich. Flyer is developed and was distributed physically and electronically. Michelle Place will assist with arranging the caterer, bar tending, permits, insurance, wine and beer, set up and take down.

The cost of her services will come from the ticket sales. Cost for tickets will be \$32.00.

### **New Business:**

A. Conservation Farm of the Year: Nominees include Sweetland Farm in Smithfield, Legends Creek in Foster, and Hurrricane Hill Farm in Cranston. Gina will contact farmers and arrange a tour for the

**board.**

**B. Web Design/Branding – Molly suggested we look for a lower priced web designer and asked board for permission for her and Paulette to apply for funds to improve the website. Jill will be offered the opportunity to take part.**

**The board is thankful to Paulette Hamilton for her involvement over the past several months and invited her to become an Associate Director of the NRICD. Paulette accepted and is immediately granted that role. Tremblay/Went Congratulations Paulette!**

**Board requested an executive session as sited on the agenda to discuss the performance and compensation of Linda Marini, Contracted Book keeper for NRICD.**

**Adjourn: Motion by Went/Lynch at 6:20 pm. And went into executive session for 10 minutes following.**