

CUMBERLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The September meeting of the Cumberland Conservation Commission was called to order by Chairman George Gettinger at 6:35 p.m. on September 10 at the Arnold Mills Community House, Hillside Rd. Present were Chairman Gettinger, Julie Guerin, Frank Geary, Briscoe Lang, John Monaghan, Greg Myers, Michael Scalzi and Lucille Martin.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report, provided by Briscoe Lang, was reviewed. The budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year is \$3,000.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Fish Ladders: Mr. Geary invited all to the groundbreaking ceremony of the Blackstone River Fish Ladder project to be held at Slater Mill in Pawtucket on Sun., Sept. 20 at 2:00 pm.

2) Monastery Fields: A local farmer has agreed to view the fields and develop a maintenance plan with associated cost estimates. Mr. Lang will coordinate the timing. Mr. Walter Bosse has offered to be involved.

3) Franklin Farm: Mr. Geary reported the several engineering companies have submitted bids to write the master plan. Four bids were selected to be reviewed with the Planning Director. Gilbane

Construction is donating labor and some materials over 2 ½ years to repair and restore the property. This fall the farmhouse will be reroofed. Local landscape architect George Gifford volunteered to develop specs for repair and restoration of the barn roof, the milking barn, and the garage. The farm has been busy this summer. Over 11,500 pounds of produce has been harvested to date. Three one-week sessions of summer camp was held for grades K-3. Many groups from all over the state and country volunteered for one day at a time at the farm. Many thanks to Mr. Geary for bringing in fresh-picked herbs, flowers, and vegetables from the Farm for the Commission members.

4) Diamond Hill Park: Ms Guerin reported the responses from the Planning Director to the Commission's questions from last month. Mr. Aubin indicated that according to the town solicitor, there has been a request from DEM to meet with the Town Council and Mayor to discuss the concession stand and its use. With regard to restrictions on the park's use by the state, there is a lengthy set of limitations related to a re-verter clause in the deed from the State to the Town. Included in the limitations is 'no commercial use'. The Commission will request a list of the restrictions, and pursue development of a management plan for the park.

5) Conservation Commission Bylaws: Ms Guerin reported that the Town Council approved the bylaws at the Town Council Meeting on July 15th. Mr. Monaghan spoke of the history behind the development of the bylaws at the meeting. The Commission is awaiting receipt of the signed document for our records. The

Commission was congratulated by Council member and Commission liaison Kelley Morris for our efforts, and Mr. Monaghan thanked her for her continued support.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Chairman Gettinger congratulated Mr. Scalzi on receiving the \$1,000 legislative grant that was awarded for maintenance and preservation of the Elder Ballou Historic Cemetery through the Conservation Commission. Mr. Lang made a motion to give Mr. Scalzi responsibility for administering the funds. It was seconded by Mr. Geary and unanimously approved.

2) Open Space Commission: Mr. Geary recused himself from involvement in the Emerson property on Tower Hill Rd. Mr. Monaghan will serve in an alternate capacity temporarily as liaison from the Conservation Commission.

3) Mr. Geary reported that according to the Planning Dept., \$100,000 in grant monies are available from the Dept. of Transportation for hiking trails and bike paths, and suggested forming a committee to discuss options to review with the Planning Dept. Mr. Scalzi made a motion to form the committee, it was seconded by Mr. Lang and unanimously approved. Committee members are Mr. Myers, Mr. Scalzi, and Mr. Monaghan, with Mr. Lang as the alternate.

4) Mr. Scalzi reported that the Planning Dept. is developing an

ordinance to regulate wood-fired outdoor furnaces. The ordinance would include limiting the size of land on which the furnaces can be installed and prohibiting them from residential areas. It will be placed in front of the Town Council in the near future.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1) Chairman Gettinger read correspondence from the Burrillville Land Trust. They are planning to document all open space in the state of Rhode Island in order to update the RIGIS information. A discussion ensued.

2) Chairman Gettinger read correspondence from Boy Scout Brian Sullivan thanking the Commission for our donation toward his Eagle Scout project. He successfully completed the installation of trails, markers, bird houses and a stone bench at the pond on the Franklin Farm property.

3) Chairman Gettinger read a request from RIACC for input on topics for seminars at the 2010 annual conference. Ms Guerin suggested a session on invasive plant management for inland park areas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm at the Arnold Mills Community House.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Guerin, Secretary