

Conservation Commission

George B Gettinger - Chairman Briscoe Lang – Vice Chairman

Julie Guerin - Secretary John Monaghan

Michael Scalzi Greg Meyers

Dick morrissey

Minutes of meeting, June 10, 2010

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on June 10, at the Metcalf-Franklin Farm, Abbott Run Valley Road, Cumberland, at 6:40 p.m., with George Gettinger presiding. In attendance were Briscoe Lang, vice-chair, Julie Guerin, secretary, John Monaghan, Mike Scalzi, Dick Morrissey, and Greg Myers.

MINUTES: Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Lang reported that the Commission's

budget balance is at \$1,500. Members approved donations of \$250 to the Cumberland Land Trust, and \$459 to the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone for the purchase of a high wheel trimmer and two electric trimmers to support the efforts to clean, restore and enhance areas along the river and throughout its watershed, including historic cemeteries of the Blackstone Valley.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trails: Mr. Monaghan reported on the status of grants and the town/state purchase of the Emerson property. Mr. Morrissey will contact the recreation department to research blazing trails at the Monastery property.

OLD BUSINESS:

Franklin Farm: Mrs. Guerin reported that the Franklin Farm won a prestigious Senator John H. Chafee Conservation Leadership award that was presented on April 30, 2010. The first planting day at the community garden was held on Thursday, May 27 with local middle school aged children actively participating.

Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces: Mr. Scalzi is awaiting an update from the Town Council on the status of the outdoor burning

ordinance.

Earth Day/Arbor Day Commemoration: The CCC voted unanimously in March to donate a tree to the Friends of Metcalf-Franklin Farm, specifically for the colonial kitchen garden. It was decided to donate the tree in honor of associate member and former secretary, Lucille Martin, who served for 30 years until 2009. Mr. Monaghan will look into the Town Council adopting a resolution commemorating Ms Martin's tenure. Members approved the purchase of a plaque to identify the tree and the reason behind the donation. A ceremony will be held at Franklin Farm during the summer to present the tree and honor Ms Martin.

NEW BUSINESS:

Removal of Invasive Plants at the Monastery: Discussion was held on beginning with the Peace Mile and move out from there. A good GPS map of existing trails is needed which can be marked with the locations of invasive plants that are targeted for removal. Ms Guerin will contact the group with dates to visit the property and begin the project.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Yard Waste pickup: Ms Guerin reported that the town website

indicates that during the summer months yard waste should be put in plastic bags and not the paper bags that are used during the times when there is a separate pickup. She will contact the Director of Public Works for the reasoning behind this.

Arnold Mills Community House: A schedule of the meetings from Sept. through next June was requested. Mrs. Guerin will update the form and return it to the organization.

RIACC website: Mr. Monaghan requested that members review the website for the RI Association of Conservation Commissions for content. He will email members an example of a newsletter to review for a possible format for a RIACC newsletter.

Blackstone River Hydropower website: Members agreed that the CCC should monitor future hydropower development along the Blackstone River.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Guerin

Secretary