

Conservation Commission

George B Gettinger - Chairman Briscoe Lang – Vice Chairman

Julie Guerin - Secretary John Monaghan

Michael Scalzi Greg Meyers

Dick Morrissey

Minutes of meeting, December 9, 2010

The Cumberland Conservation Commission (CCC) met on Dec. 9, at the Arnold Mills Community House, Abbott Run Valley Road, Cumberland, at 6:44 p.m., with George Gettinger, Chair presiding. In attendance were Julie Guerin, secretary, Greg Myers, Mike Scalzi, Dick Morrissey, Lucille Martin, and Ann Williams (Cumberland Garden Club).

MINUTES: Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dr. Gettinger reported that the Commission's budget for the current fiscal year is \$2,500 and has a

balance of \$1,900 after expenses of \$100 for RIACC dues and \$500 for field mowing at the Monastery to Mr. Marsalkowski were paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor: Mrs. Guerin reported for Mr. Monaghan that a letter was received from Senator Whitehouse in response to Mr. Monaghan's letter on behalf of the Conservation Commission supporting Option 3 of the Management Option Proposals that the National Park Service is considering regarding future funding for the Corridor. Dr. Gettinger will send a copy of the letter to the chair of the Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor.

Updated news on this endeavor is that the park may be expanded to include historic areas outside the immediate vicinity. The original five options have been reduced to three, which still include the option that the Conservation Commission supports.

Earth Day Photo Contest, 2011: Details of the rules have been finalized and approved by the Town Solicitor, Mr. Thomas Hefner. Mrs. Guerin will contact Mayor McKee's office to set up a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the contest. Prizes and a budget for them were discussed.

Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace (OWBF) Ordinance: Mr. Scalzi reported that the Town Council is expected to pass a new ordinance

that will restrict some outdoor burning, e.g. fire pits. The OWBF section is on hold pending a clarification of state laws from the State Fire Marshall's Office.

Franklin Farm: Mrs. Guerin reported that Mr. Frank Matta was voted the new president of the Metcalf-Franklin Farm Association.

Trails: The purchase and sales agreement was signed for the Emerson property. Next steps for applying for grants will be discussed in January, 2011.

Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions (RIACC): Mrs. Guerin reported that Mr. Monaghan has drafted a letter on behalf of RIACC to recommend that when Governor Chafee makes appointments to the State Housing Appeals Board (SHAB) in January, 2011, that at least one appointment be a person with environmental credentials who is also supportive of affordable housing. In the past there has been no effective voice representing environmental concerns in SHAB deliberations and decisions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Guerin

Secretary