

**Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone  
Minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2008**

**Place:** The Depot, Woonsocket

**Present:** Frank Matta (presiding), John Marsland, Ron Belliveau, Sandra Belliveau, Frank Geary, Keith Hainley, Dave Coutu, Dave Newton, Roland Gauvin, Arthur Plitt, Judy Hadley, Alice Clemente, Joe Pailthorpe, Peter Coffin

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's report:** Balance on hand: \$15,694.94. Riverfest: \$999.36. Grant balance: \$10,507.73. Available: \$4187.85.

**Grants:**

- One of the RI legislative grants has not yet been received.
- RIRC grant: Roland reported on the equipment that has already been purchased with that grant. The \$1200 for the display board has not yet been utilized.
- The Board was reminded of the need to keep good records, especially since cancelled checks have been requested for the 2006 grant.

Sandra reported that she has set up an equipment log for better accountability.

The Annual Meeting will be held at 6:30 on May 21 at Oak Hill Nursing Home in Pawtucket.

**Membership:** Joe Pailthorpe reported on plans for membership recruitment and retention. He will send letters to all new members and a membership document will be put up on the website.

**BRC:** Peter Coffin reported that Worcester has brought in legislators to put pressure on the EPA about proposed new regs. The EPA is standing fast but a committee will be looking at affordability.

- The Burrillville Planning Board has met with Peter about storm water and possibly adopting a by-law on that matter.
- Peter submitted a letter re the Dowling Village project.
- The next BRC meeting will be May 2, 2-4, Uxbridge.

Frank Geary reported that the Salt Water fishing show was a success. There was a lot of interest in the fish ladders; at least 400 signed a petition to include fish ladders in the state bond categories.

- Larry Mouradian has access to a helicopter to shoot the video.
- Frank distributed information re the fish ladders and displayed two new display banners.
- He announced that lobbying day would be the 22<sup>nd</sup> and urged BRWC/FOB members to contact legislators re the proposed environmental bond issue.
- The Nature Conservancy has expressed an interest in participating in the fish ladder project; Frank will meet with them.

Frank Geary reported on a meeting that he, Dave Coutu and Alice Clemente had had with Jenny Pereira of the RI Foundation. BRWC/FOB can ask them for funds for a power point projector. Peter will write a grant proposal for that purpose.

Keith Hainley reported on plans for the Earth Day cleanup in conjunction with Keep America Beautiful. The cleanup will actually be on Saturday. Participants will meet at Jones Street and at Manville to clean different sections of the river.

Keith also reported on a draft of a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. Money will be available for planning from the Corridor.

**Riverfest:** John Marsland reported that forms had been sent to 168 people who are former participants in the race. It was agreed that additional information would be sent to all BRWC/FOB members. There will be a press release.

-The possibility of a raffle was suggested for future events; a permit from the police department is required for a raffle.

Sandra reported on the Walkathon. A table has been reserved on which will be displayed the BRC book on the state of the river, BRWC/FOB membership forms, and fish ladder information. The new banners will be displayed.

A motion was made and passed that the Environmental Excellence Award for 2008 be given to Bill's Auto Parts (Paul D'Adamo). The award will be given at Rivers Day.

**Rivers Day:** Jan Reitsma has asked BRC to support events the corridor is involved in, e.g. Rivers Day. BRWC/FOB should also do so.

**Motion:** that we give our award and participate in the June 21<sup>st</sup> Rivers Day in Central Falls in a cooperative fashion with the BVTC. The motion passed.

Ron Belliveau reported on the auto removal project. 5 cars were taken from the river. They think more can be taken out in the next phase of the removal.

-BRWC/FOB has received an insurance check for \$1900 for one of the stolen cars. That will defray the costs of the \$1400 towing bill.

-Frank Matta has requested an estimate on placing a barrier at the car removal site. Citizens Bank may be interested in paying for it.

-EPA people have expressed approval of the car removal and the press gave the event good coverage.

Sandra provided information on the Workplace Dynamics Course Series in May and June on Waterman Ave. in East Providence at \$59 per course. A motion was made and passed that we compensate people who attend those seminars and bring back information to the group.

Johanna Hunter and Margarita Prior of the EPA have nominated the BRWC/FOB for a President's Gold Star Award to be presented Tuesday at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Several members will attend.

John Marsland reported on a cleanup with 15 girl scouts at the Valley Falls Heritage Park.

It was decided that the chairperson of every event should take responsibility for keeping track of hours for each event.

A motion was made and passed that we match last year's donation of \$300 to Franklin Farm.

The June meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Depot in Woonsocket.