

Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone  
Minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2008

Place: Oak Hill Nursing Home, Pawtucket

Present: Frank Geary, David Coutu, Arthur Plitt, Roland Gauvin, Ron Belliveau, Sandra Belliveau, John Marsland (presiding), Keith Hainley, Judy Hadley, Alice Clemente, Tammy Gilpatrick

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as submitted.

Tammy Gilpatrick presented an illustrated, detailed report on water quality testing for 2007. She noted that there were temperature concerns for both MA and RI. There continues to be a problem with bacteria near the Royal Panda restaurant in Cumberland due to runoff from the Marshall Avenue area. She stated that conductivity is to be added to the set of tests and spoke of outreach plans such as a table at the Land/Water Summit. Tammy distributed *The Blackstone River – Clean by 2015* and requested volunteer hours from those who work on related matters.

Treasurer's report: One of the legislative grants has been received (the FOB grant for the website); the other one is supposedly in the works. There is a balance of \$14,871.73, \$7600 of which is dedicated grant money. All of the 2006 dedicated funds have been spent. \$1823 is available for the annual canoe race. \$4448.73 is expendable. A motion to accept the report was approved.

Membership form: a form submitted by Joe Pailthorpe was reviewed and amended. It should say 501c3 at the top and include the mission statement. "Friend" was changed to "Steward" and "Associate" to "Friend".

New building in Manville: Keith Hainley reviewed the status of the negotiations. Potential multiple uses of the facility were discussed as was the need for care in building on wetlands. Sandra asked whether a maintenance cost factor has been calculated and suggested that a small endowment fund be created for this purpose. She also asked about tax consequences, liability, utilities, etc. More information is needed.

Ron Belliveau reported on a project to remove 21 cars from the river in Pawtucket at the request of the State Police. The project will take place in March. DEM will sign off on it. Tom Robinson will provide service to pull them out; Bill's Auto Parts will take the cars. BRWC/FOB will receive \$100 per car. A pre-event press release is planned.

The problem of inadequate publicity was discussed once again.

Re an open space and watershed mapping to take place in Burrillville, it was suggested that Paul Roselli should e-mail the whole Board with information on the project. Bob Charpentier was selected to represent the Watershed Council as needed.

Display board: grant money has not yet been officially approved and no report on progress was available.

The May 3 Walkathon: Sandra will send a mailing to all members to try to get them to participate or sponsor. There will be a table for materials to be distributed. There is a registration fee of \$10 per person to be in the Walkathon and there will be a free tee shirt. If members raise \$50 from sponsors, the Watershed Council will pay the registration fee. Sandra will put an announcement in the *Valley Breeze*.  
A motion to participate in the Walkathon, send a flyer to all our members, and offer to pay their registration fee if they raise \$50 or more was approved.

Riverfest: The event will be held June 7, River Island Park to Manville. Brian will make up a mailing list based on the last 3 years' participants.

Surf-casters' show: April 4-6 at the Convention Center. This group has contributed \$1100 to the fish ladder project. The Watershed Council will have a table there. John Marsland will take responsibility for this project and get people to help.

Fish ladders: A grant for \$35,000 has been received from CRMC; an annual report must be submitted a year after receipt of funds. This money will be for the actual construction of the fish passages. After a planning meeting at Save the Bay, Frank Geary sent a letter to DEM's Michael Sullivan asking that BRWC/FOB be designated as an organization eligible for the Woonsocket SEP money. \$250,000 is needed for the Slater Mill ladder that will be the first one built. Woonsocket and Pawtucket are not interested in officially supporting the fish ladders.

Frank Geary spoke at the League of Cities and Towns about how grass roots efforts move projects like this one and Franklin Farms. Franklin Farms has applied for 501c3 status and is looking for grants.

An acquisition of 17 acres of open space in Cumberland is in the works (the Kissik land from which the Council removed 20,000 tires).

All information for the website should be sent to Keith.

The next meeting will be at the Albion Fire Station since nobody was available to report on efforts to have the meeting scheduled at the Depot.