

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

Place: Cumberland Hill Fire Station

Present: Frank Matta, presiding, John Marsland, Roland Gauvin, Paul Roselli, Judy Hadley, Dave Newton, Ron Belliveau, Sandra Belliveau, Arthur Plitt, Bob Charpentier, Frank Geary, Keith Hainley, Alice Clemente, Peter Coffin, Ray Lippe

The November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$12,671.87, including \$6600 designated for the fish ladder project; small expenses for this project have been taken from the general funds.

Bob Charpentier reported that there was a balance of \$1822.86 in the Friends account to be transferred to the BRWC/FOB account.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was approved.

Website: There is an outstanding invoice from Brian Murphy for \$723 for work on the website. Work on the website may have to be curtailed due to diminishing grant funds. Meeting information needs to be on the website; it should be sent to Brian, Keith or Dave. Information for the next meeting is already available at this meeting.

Paul Roselli expressed his dissatisfaction with "revolving" meeting places. Judy Hadley suggested that meetings be scheduled two months in advance. Peter Coffin will pursue the possibility of scheduling meetings regularly at the Depot in Woonsocket. Arthur Plitt stated that he likes the idea of having meetings in different places.

Grant applications: There has been no official word on the two legislative grants. BRWC/FOB was awarded a \$3500 Rivers Council grant; additional funds for a total of \$4700 may yet be approved. Travel funds are not approved and funding for supplies is restricted. Some of the additional funds might be for the website.

Keith and John will pursue a Greenways Alliance grant for bikeway and trail improvements.

Riverfest: Bob and John will set up the first planning meeting at Arline's house. The first Saturday in June has been selected for the race.

Membership: Tabled to the next meeting. Joe Pailthorpe should be informed that there is a membership application on line.

Display board presentation: Paul Roselli presented and discussed the relative merits of table top and floor models. He recommended a floor model for around \$1400.

Discussion of the options suggested that the Board was leaning towards the procurement of 2 table top boards. Paul will come up with a couple of designs for the next meeting.

BRC:

Peter Coffin distributed a “Homeowner’s Guide to Protecting Water Quality in the Blackstone River Watershed” packet. Money is available for printing it.

Tammy Gilpatrick has been working on a brochure on the status of the Blackstone. It will be available on the BRC website.

The next meeting of BRC is a week from Friday, 4:00, at River Bend Farm. Dave Newton will continue to represent BRWC/FOB on BRC.

EPA:

The Upper Blackstone permit decision has not yet come out but Worcester has been putting out negative press.

RI distinguished naturalist award: Motion to nominate Michael Ferry was approved.

Arthur Plitt reported on a movement to tie obesity concerns to “green” issues (“No Child Left Inside”). BRWC/FOB might promote the effort to get people engaged.

Ray Lippe reported on the State’s plan to put 300,000 sea run brown trout into the Blackstone and asked for BRWC/FOB’s help. Paul will put out a press release. Keith and Ron will help.

Wellness Walkathon: Whole Foods will sponsor this 5 mile walkathon on May 3. This fundraiser will start at the Rt. 295 rest stop. BRWC/FOB funds could go to support the fish ladder project. Sandra suggested that a commitment be made to participate and that it should be put on the website. She and Frank Matta will do the walk.

Woonsocket has received a fine and violation notice re Thundermist. DEM wants the money from that fine spent in Woonsocket. Keith will look into the possibilities.

Judy announced the annual Land and Water Conservation Summit and urged people to attend.

There will be a presentation on this year’s water quality report card at a breakfast on Feb. 9, 9:30, at the Blackstone Public Library.

Dave Newton reported on a plan by Lester Hilton re the Elder Ballou Meeting House property in Cumberland. The plan would incorporate this property into the already existing walking trail in town and tie in with open space parcels owned by the town and

by the Land Trust. Money is not yet available for the project. Board members voiced their support for the plan.

Bob Charpentier spoke of new kayaks and requested information on obtaining paddles for those.

The next meeting has been scheduled for February 20 at the Oak Hill Nursing Center, 544 Pleasant Street, Pawtucket, 401 725 8888. Arthur Plitt will send directions.