

Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone
Minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2007

Place: Cumberland Hill Fire Department

Present: Frank Matta (presiding), David Newton, Sandra Belliveau, Ron Belliveau, Roland Gauvin, Arthur Plitt, Keith Hainley, Peter Coffin, Alice Clemente

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

By-law revisions: since the revisions were not brought forward for ratification at the May members meeting, a motion was made that the September Board meeting be also a special meeting to vote in the By-law changes and highlight special projects. A notice will have to be sent to all members.

It was decided that we should try to have the August meeting in Burrillville.

A \$500 donation has been received from Harvard Pilgrim, to be used this time for water quality monitoring.

The matter of a Valley Breeze access account was tabled once again.

A trip to Alden Lab was announced for July 19.

Roland Gauvin reported on a stream continuity study that Trout Unlimited has been working on for NRCS in the Clear River Watershed. The work involves mapping and photographing of culverts (there are over 150) with the ultimate goal of revitalizing fish and habitat. The data will go through Massachusetts and national channels but RIDEM will try to get funds for remediation as needed. It was decided that a formal report on this project would be scheduled for the September members meeting.

Arthur Plitt reviewed a Connecticut DEP annual report on restoring the environment that has an interesting component in it on working with kids ("No Child Left Inside"). BRWC/FOB might borrow some of the ideas. He also reported that one of John Horton's colleagues (Blackstone Academy) wants to start a kayaking program for kids. Keith will call them.

It was reported that the RI Salt Water Anglers Foundation gave money for the Kikimuit fish ladders. The information should be sent to Frank Geary.

Peter Coffin reported that the BRC had received 501c3 status. Donna Williams submitted a successful application for an EPA livable communities grant for work in Worcester, Woonsocket, and Pawtucket. Money will be available for teachers who want to work on this project. He reported that the Upper Blackstone Plant wants to do a public education program in August. The BRC is organizing a workshop for September.

Keith Hainley announced a cleanup for Saturday at 8:45, participants to meet at Blackstone Valley Outfitters. The Central Falls Landing area will also be cleaned.

There was a report of over-cutting on the Manville well field property owned by the Lincoln Water Commission. BRWC/FOB was supposed to cut some trees but the Lincoln people went in and “turned a natural grass bank into a sandy beach”.

Three small buildings in the Quinnville well field have been vandalized. The Lincoln Water Commission wants to knock the buildings down and DEM oked their plan. But it is on the superfund site and on a flood plane. Some of the material must be removed and the wells capped. (Lincoln is now on Providence water.)

BRWC/FOB will look into this.

The matter of the BRWC/FOB logo was discussed. All liked the suggested logo with the FOB name IN the river but agreed that the font should be made larger so that both BRWC and FOB would be equal. The logo committee will work on this. Arthur Plitt suggested that there be a contest re the logo.

Dave Newton will talk to Tony Nobrega on follow-up re the \$25,000 grant application.

The problem of the two websites was considered. Keith and the other members of the committee will get the two web designers together to consolidate them and work out details for weekly maintenance. A budget line will be developed and David Newton will supervise the web’s operation on behalf of the Board.

BRWC Treasurer’s report: On hand: \$15,090.80 (\$5761 is for fish ladders). All grants are paid out except for the fish ladder one. A check for \$430.00 to be paid to Leslie Lambert for work on the fish ladders was approved.

The meeting was adjourned until August 15.