

Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone  
Minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2007

Place: Cumberland Hill Fire Station

Present: Roland Gauvin, John Marsland (presiding), Bob Charpentier, Sandra Belliveau, Judy Hadley, Frank Geary, Keith Hainley, Tony Nobrega, Joe Pailthorpe, Peter Coffin, Alice Clemeente

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's report:

FOB: \$2241.71 balance

BRWC: \$13,422.77 balance (includes the \$5000 from Lincoln for the fish ladder project)

Peter Coffin reported for BRC: Peter announced an event at the Slater Mill (10/18) to announce a series of grants: EPA funds for Blackstone Academy; a Livable Communities grant.

Re the potential treatment rule revision for the Upper Blackstone: technical people are being brought in for a roundtable discussion sponsored by the Coalition and the Corridor early in November at Holy Cross.

Judy Hadley spoke about a new Google Pro program that she felt might be useful for BRWC/FOB. The cost would be \$400 with access through two computers. Sandra noted that such a program would require a real commitment from someone to justify the expense. Roland suggested that we wait until we have a need for it.

A cleanup of the boardwalk in Valley Falls has been done over the last three weeks. 300 tires were pulled out and disposed of.

It was reported that a book has been published about the nationwide Keep America Beautiful cleanup effort. It includes pictures of Frank Matta and others at a cleanup in 2006. Keith suggested that the picture be blown up and framed for future publicity purposes.

Fish Ladder report:

-Grants totaling \$2,190,000 have already been received. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,560,000.

-The Elizabeth Webbing dam will hopefully be removed.

-Frank Geary has been in touch with Laura Ernst, an expert on fundraising for environmental projects, who will work with BRWC/FOB to obtain the needed matching funds.

-\$5000 from Cumberland is forthcoming and Central Falls has pledged a contribution. A letter has been sent to the Pawtucket City Council requesting a contribution.

-The intern hired earlier in the year did not work out.

Roland Gauvin reported on the Clear River mapping project. 90 culverts have already been done. He announced that there will be a banquet in November where an environmental award will be given to the Northern Rhode Island chapter of Trout Unlimited for this project. Roland will accept the award. NRCS will write a grant to fund this project.

Keith Hainley reported on several matters:

- There was a final wrap-up meeting re the Greenway Challenge. BRWC/FOB was recognized for keeping the river clean and also got \$100 from them.
- Keith spoke of a wetland area behind the old Benny's on Mendon Road where people dump and burn stolen cars. He noted the effort to remove them.
- Keith identified land where a canoe storage shed (40 x 60 feet) might be put in the vicinity of the Manville well field.
- He reported on the website (blackstoneriver.org). The two existing websites will be blended. Material should be sent to Brian or Keith. Fish ladder pictures and plans will be scanned on to the site as will the water quality testing report and BRWC/FOB letterhead.
- The motorboat used for cleaning will be painted with some BRWC/FOB identifier and the website address. A canoe may also be painted for use as advertising at events.
- Keith did a presentation to the outing club at Clark University. He will also do a canoe trip with them.

The American Rivers Day event will be held on October 18 across from the Slater Mill. Margarita Prior will be there.

Peter Coffin stated that the BRC matrix needs to be prioritized to identify what can be done over the short term. There should be a study of how much water should go through the Gorge for fish habitat protection purposes.

Judy announced that she had arranged for an access account at the *Valley Breeze*. The ID is BRWC; the password, Riverrat.

Announcements;

- Information was given on the upcoming reception for Jan Reitsma.
- RI has a new conservation license plate.
- Bob announced that he is arranging a Christmas party.
- Franklin Farm donated 5200 pounds of food to the RI Food Bank and additional food to Mount St. Rita's. Volunteer work done on the farm was equivalent to \$15,700.