

Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone  
Minutes of the members meeting of September 19, 2007

Place: Cumberland Public Library

Present: John Marsland (presiding), Arthur Plitt, John Horton, Edward Erminelli, Keith Gonsalves, Dave Coutu, Sandra Belliveau, Ron Belliveau, Judy Hadley, Peter Coffin, Dave Newton, Joe Pailthorpe, Alice Clemente

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as presented.

The By-law amendments passed by the Board in the spring were unanimously ratified by the members present.

John Horton reported on the water quality testing project at the Blackstone Academy. The students are developing baseline data near the Old Slater Mill. John plans to attend a workshop on proper testing procedures. The Academy has acquired EPA approved equipment and will use the BRWC/FOB grant to supplement that equipment. John sought and was given advice on equipment and other matters.

John Marsland announced that there was no urgency to vacating the Dean Warehouse as a storage area. The possibility of a trailer was discussed and also the possibility of a metal building to be located at the Manville well field. The cost would be less than \$20,000 and a special permit might not be needed because of the existing building.

John also announced that canoes had been rented at the Burrillville arts festival. The rental netted about \$220. High School students also collected trash along the river as part of their community service obligation.

Alice reported briefly on the meeting at the Slater Mill to launch the engineering study for the fish ladders. She noted that there would be several opportunities for BRWC/FOB to submit comments, namely at the NEPA stage and at other permitting stages along the way. A question was raised about the matching funds that BRWC/FOB is supposed to provide for this project; it is hoped that there will be a report on this at the next Board meeting. The possibility of forming a working committee to represent the Council's interests and concerns about technical, financial and environmental issues was discussed.

A MOTION was made that a committee of from 3 to 5 people, headed by Frank Geary, should be appointed to represent the Watershed's interests in the fish ladder process. The motion stipulated that the committee meet at least monthly and report back at the following Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

John Marsland announced that Joe Pailthorpe would now be co-chairing the Membership Committee with him and would work on new ways of increasing both individual and business memberships.

Dave Newton announced that he has met with Keith Hainley and Brian Murphy to work on the website. They will soon present a report on that matter.

Sandra Belliveau reported that there was a balance of \$13,467.77 in the BRWC account, \$5000 of which is the contribution from Lincoln for the fish ladder project.

Peter Coffin reported for BRC that a meeting with CLF had been postponed (Frank Matta had asked him to attend for BRWC.) CLF has been concentrating on automobile salvage yards through their intern's Google Earth project. It is not clear whose job it is to look around the watershed at other potential trouble spots.

Peter reported on the livable community grant that BRC had solicited and received. It will pay for outreach to schools in Woonsocket, Central Falls and Pawtucket.

There is still no word from the EPA on the upper watershed treatment plant standards.

It was announced that there would be a meeting at DEM the morning of Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00. While it would deal mostly with the Heritage Corridor, Michael Sullivan planned to speak for about 15 minutes about the fish ladder project. People were urged to attend.

Peter suggested that BRWC/FOB minutes be sent regularly to Jan Reitsma, the new director of the Heritage Corridor.

Sandra Belliveau reported on a plan to build 40 units of housing in close proximity to the river in Lincoln. The Planning Board was not receptive to the Master Plan because of wetland and other environmental issues. BRWC has concerns about effluent. Sandra will submit comments under Rule 2.

Arthur Plitt announced two meetings of interest for the watershed council: Camp Meehan Zoning Hearings-Moshassuck River, September 27, 7:00 p.m., North Providence High School; and Environmental Justice Day, November 3, 9:00 a.m., JWU.

Dave Newton commented on the issue of "sidewalk completeness" on the Cumberland side of the new Martin St. Bridge that was recently reported in the newspaper. It was wrongfully reported that the Superfund had something to do with the fact that a sidewalk has been provided on only one side of Martin St. Dave has communicated with Cumberland's Mayor Mckee to correct this impression and stressed that sidewalks are needed on both sides of the street.

Judy Hadley raised the possibility of opening an access account for BRWC/FOB with the *Valley Breeze* at a cost of \$25 per year.

A MOTION was made that the BRWC/FOB purchase a one-year access account to the *Valley Breeze* and that Judy be the lead person on this. The motion passed unanimously.

John Marsland will find a place for the next meeting.