

Northern RI Conservation District
2283 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 (401)934-0840

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2012

Chair Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Present: Directors: Paul Dolan, Eugene Pepper, Dick Went, Jean Lynch. Associate Director: Amanda Clarke NRICD Staff: Gina DeMarco NRCS Staff: Justin Tuthill

- I. Minutes: Minutes and notes of previous meeting were accepted as on file.
Dick/Eugene
- II. Treasurers Report: Received. Dick/Eugene
- III. Old Business
 - a. SRWEP – Gina reported GET WET is being implemented by both Scituate and Ponaganset High Schools. About 200 students participating. 75% of the wells have some trace of nitrates. Community presentation for Scituate is April 4th. Water festival will be held May 8th. Nutrient workshop with Holly Burdett speaking went well. 17 ag or related participants. Gina is working with Providence Seed Company, new to Scituate to determine if there is any room for a partnership with SRWEP. New phosphorous reduction campaign materials passed out.
 - b. NRCS Agreements – Gina and Justin reported that all of the agreements with NRCS are moving along smoothly as far as we are aware including Geese, Ag Inventory, Outreach and Engineering.
 - c. Building/walkway: Much discussion about possibilities for a handicap entrance to the building due to high elevation of building to driveway. Possibilities include: knocking down garage and driving closer up to the back door so ramp can be shorter, driving in from the fire station, but we must determine where neighbors property lines are, using an elevator type lift. Also discussed need for railing on the front steps. To be continued.
 - d. Seedling sale – Discussion around Eugene's concern that Rose of Sharon is on EPA's list of invasive plants. We were not aware of that. Eugene recommended we always look at EPA list in addition to RI lists. Gina asked people for their time commitments to help at the seedling sale, they responded as follows:

Deb Went: both days

Jean Lynch and her grandson: Friday

Jean Lynch: Saturday

Paul Dolan: Saturday

Amanda: Saturday

Gina: Friday or as needed

Dick and Norm: have the Coverts Project Weekend

IV. New Business

V. Reports

- a. Chair: A new position to assist with book keeping and administration hired by the SCC. Amanda recommended Gretchen from STB, Jean also rec. her.
- b. SCC: Paul Dolan explained the SCC and how it works for Amanda.
- c. NRCS: handed out written report and Justin discussed the first round of funds and the approval and eligibility issues. No WHIP funds available yet.
- d. RC&D: has 2 grants from forestry and 5 from NRCS. They are looking for a new coordinator. Their office is currently at URI East Farm.
- e. RDC: N/A
- f. RIFCO: Meeting last night. May 5th is a woodland owners workshop and Spring Fling. They want to have a different annual dinner this year, maybe clam bake. Amanda knows a caterer with a clam cake and chowder truck and also a caterer who is reasonable. RIFCO discussed policy issues and they accepted a new strategic plan. There will be a tree farm audit on March 22, including Scituate High School.
- g. RIACD: Dick passed out and explained several bills including H7701/S2611, S2919, S2397, S2163, 7301, 7371 and stated that the Governor budget 5 #4 has several land acquisition proposals. He discussed the NACD annual meeting which he reported on and the TMDL Principals. A lawyer Dick met want to put together a handbook for farmers using a SARE grant. Coverts is at Alton Jones with a field trip to Dick and Norms place. Ag partnership concerned about a conflict of interest in lobbying issues. Want to lobby under RIACD. RIACD will need to schedule a 501H. Dick is going to DC for fly in and has appointments with Langevin, Reed and Whitehouse, not Ciccilane.
NELM – Gina, Dick and Jean are going and Dick recommended Becca and Kate go. A motion was made to pay for the expenses associated with the leadership meeting up to \$500. Eugene/Dick

- h. RIRLA – Lou not present
- i. Envirothon – May 18 at Goddard Park. Special Topic is Low Impact Development.
- j. District Manager – Gina asked Amanda to share about her new position. She works for Advocacy Solutions. They do legislative analyst work and lobbying. Dan Connors, past legislator is the Director of Policy. Amanda feels we need to improve our websites based on what she sees out there. Gina invited Amanda to give input and foster change. Amanda's friend Nick who developed our Rhody Soup Logo is very good at developing websites. We will talk in the near future about how to work with Jill and Nick to give our sites a better look and ease to navigate.

VI. Other

- a. Dick needs copies of the annual report and would like some available with the pamphlets in front.