

WPWA minutes 2/23/17 6:30-8:00 pm

Attendees: Tom, Alan, Jen, Brenda, Chris, Joe

1. Minutes from Jan 2017 meeting - Approved unanimously (Motion by Tom, Jen seconded)
2. Budget - no news from Chris or Jen
3. Browning Mill Pond - Peter Lacouture called Alan about an issue on Browning Mill Pond - DEM is planning to build facilities next to the pond. Alan put 3 items in a folder labeled Browning Mill Pond in the February meeting directory as background. Chris said that WPWA provided verbal comments (suggesting the location was not ideal and should be moved) during the open comment period last year. Permitting is complete now and nothing more can be done. Board discussion ended with no further action to be taken at this point in the process. Alan will get back to Peter.
4. Jan retreat report--if we have any suggested edits, send to Alan, he will compile and send to Mark. So far there are just editorial suggestions. Tom asked about the executive team development on the last page of the report, that leaders would rotate through all positions. It was agreed that this is a suggestion, but not required and unlikely to occur. The board agreed that the focus should be on developing depth in leadership and planning ahead to fill vacancies. Alan will communicate this to Mark.
5. Retreat follow up- there was much discussion on follow up. We agree we'd like to have Mark back, which is covered by the grant. It is not his skill set to help us reformat the budget. We decided to have him back for 3 hours in March or April to focus on water quality - Alan will ask Mark about his availability. (Linda Green may be invited).
6. Action plan - we discussed whether to work on all items in the retreat report or prioritize. It was decided that we couldn't work on all and should prioritize but that some efforts needed to be done in parallel. 1. Building board - Jen has a person to recommend. Anyone with recommendations should email a short description to Alan (can be a website link). 2. focus on businesses- Jen and Joe will meet next week to work on this. They will email board about their activities but they have board approval to take action before the next board meeting. Chris has a script that can be adapted for this. Need to decide what we can offer (stickers, mention in newsletter), consider whether business would offer a benefit night. 3. Sustainability of WQ monitoring- best option would be an endowment where the interest covers monitoring cost. Alan will meet with Jim Zazny at RI Foundation on March 14 to see whether an endowment campaign is realistic. Our best successes have been through bequests, we should revisit planned giving. Chris suggests finding funders that have emotional attachment to sites. Brenda suggests thinking creatively about alternative ways to monitor water quality. Chris noted that asking people to fund WQ specifically limits flexibility since the funding is restricted. Chris noted that single-year grants are not cost-effective.