

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Board of Trustees Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2015**

Attending: Alan Desbonnet, Helen Drew, Walt Galloway, Pete August, Chris Fox, Jennifer MacKenzie, Mal Grant, Antonia Bryson, Kim Coulter

Excused: T Boving

Not in Attendance: Grace Lentini

1. Call to Order 6:39 PM H. Drew

Helen announced an addition to the agenda to be discussed after a review of the minutes – Love's Truck Stop Proposal.

Antonia Bryson suggested 3 amendments to the minutes

Helen motioned to approve the minutes with amendments, Alan 2nd. Passed

2. Loves Truck Stop Proposal – Mal Grant

Mal explained that the proposal to build a Love's Truck Stop on Rte. 3 off of Exit 1 on 95 is again before the planning and zoning board. This development would include a convenience store, multiple gas pumps and areas for trucks to spend the night. While doing so, trucks may idle to keep warm. The last time this proposal was put forth, the WPWA Board objected and intervened through regulatory action via our legal authority granted by the RI River's Council. At that time, the proposal was rejected by planning and zoning. Love's took the proposal to Superior Court where it was remanded back to the towns. It is currently in hearings back in the town. Mal received communication from a former founding member of the WPWA board who heard from Rick Prescott of the Hopkinton Historical Association who is involved with a citizen's group against the proposal. He asked that WPWA support their mission through fundraising to oppose the truck stop.

The board discussed various approaches and was not inclined to fund raise or participate in such a way as to be publicly out front. It could be awkward and strain our reputation.

Tom and Denise did the research used in WPWA's original opposition and it was agreed that we could use that to oppose the proposal again.

In an effort to garner support for the citizen's group opposing the proposal, communication to WPWA members about it was discussed. Pete and Walt suggested that we not solicit the members directly for financial support. It was decided that an informational email blast could be sent out to members informing them of the proposal without any request for financial support. Antonia agreed to draft the email and ensure that there were no requests for money, it was not too flashy and that there were no policies and procedures in place for WPWA to become directly involved. The email would state that the issue has arisen again, lay out what WPWA did the last time, explain that we maintain our original position and include information on who to contact in the citizen's group to take further action.

In addition, WPWA will resubmit its original letter to the Town Planning and Zoning if appropriate. If changes need to be made before submission, it will be reviewed by the Executive Committee due to the time sensitive nature of the situation. Antonia will reach out to the Town Solicitor.

3. Work Plan Adjustments – Chris

Due to a shortage of funding, passage of the Wild & Scenic Act, and loss/replacement of a staffer, changes have been made to the 2015 Work Plan. Funding shortages occurred due to the reduction in annual donation from the Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation from the requested \$80,000 to \$40,000.

- i.* We cannot hire a FT Wild & Scenic Coordinator as planned due to low NPS funding.
- ii.* Elimination of in class programs (which Heather was going to implement)
- iii.* Elimination of the 10 free Urban Youth Paddles
- iv.* Elimination of the Halloween Party
- v.* The Freelancer Program may be delayed
- vi.* We will not hire part-time staff for the Welcome Center
- vii.* Wild and Scenic Implementation will be delayed until the Fall

Future Reports from Chris on the Work Plan will be on progress, not changes.

4. Board Responsibilities – Helen

Helen thanked the board members for their contribution and recognized their representation outside the organization. She also expressed that we need continued outside representation. Tom's 9 year term on the Board is up and we should look for a replacement water quality specialist. Chris mentioned that we may look for a Water Quality Hydrologist. Some names were floated and it was decided that we should ask Tom for names of other people in the industry who might be interested.

5. Executive Session

The Board Went Into Executive Session to discuss board member attendance.

6. Adjourn 7:33pm

Minutes submitted by Jennifer MacKenzie and Chris Fox