



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION/TREE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:30 PM
Narragansett Town Hall
25 Fifth Avenue, Large Board Room

Minutes of the Meeting- taken by Polly Pedersen

Attendees: Brian Grieve, Brian Wagner, Richard Nassa, Polly Pedersen, Andrew Boruta, Jill Sabo and Steve Daignault (Tree Warden).

John DiPanni and Patricia Federico absent.

Meeting Time: Start 5:35 p.m.- Ended 6:35 p.m.

1C Minutes from Prior meeting: motion to approve from Brian Wagner, Second by Richard Nassa —all in favor, one abstain.

2R Arbor Day Tree Planting: Andy Boruta makes a motion that we recommend to town council to adopt a proclamation recognizing April 29, 2022 as Arbor Day in Narragansett, Polly Pedersen seconds. All are in favor. The tree warden will add to next town council meeting for an agenda. Plan to plant a red maple at the middle school on Arbor Day. We did receive the 2021 Tree City award as part of the Arbor Day Foundation.

3R Tree Board Update

Recommend bringing Urban Forestry plan to town council to get it approved.

Brian Wagner makes a motion to continue the discussion of the Urban Forestry Management Plan to the May meeting. Andy Boruta seconds. All are in favor.

4R Plastic Reduction Ordinance-

Brian Wagner suggests we should gather scientific information from URI for our knowledge and to discuss in future public outreach.

Polly Pedersen offered to reach out to the URI contact.

- URI in their “Plastics Land to Sea” efforts.

<https://www.uri.edu/news/2021/10/uri-launches-plastics-land-to-sea-web-platform/>

Andy Boruta offered to reach out to the EPA to learn about polystyrene and its impact on the environment.

- We are interested in statistics on such things as: impacts on litter, impacts on wildlife, PFAS – polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- The way in which we recycle plastics may also be harmful to the community
- Richard Nassa suggests we try to get the high school eco club involved. Brian Wagner volunteered to reach out.
- Brian Wagner makes a motion to continue discussion to May, Andy Boruta seconds. All are in favor.

Update from Liaison to the Land Conservancy Trust-

Brian Wagner provided the following update.

- Adopted the finalized language on preserving the land trust properties so they could not be sold by the town. The properties remain preserved, an express conservation easement recorded to limit the use of the property
- Eagle Scouts are at Sunset Farms to do some wet land walk overs on the back side of property towards the pond.

Update from Coastal Access Improvement Committee-

Richard Nassa provided the following update. Brian Wagner added additional commentary.

- Recognizable high tide line- the current state is determined by a supreme court case that found property mean high water mark based on historical data. With this definition the line may be under water even in low tide.
- Legislature offering different definition of that line more visible to public access users. There is a proposal to change to 10 ft above recognizable high tide line. (H8055)
- A group has been formed to argue against this.
- There is a bill out of committee which will be debated tonight to determine if voting to floor of the house. There is currently no companion bill in the senate so the house will have to send their version to the senate on approval.
- Brian Wagner suggests we write to our representatives to suggest they vote to pass the final bill that comes out of the committee, and in senate that you would vote to support a companion bill.
- Continued discussion on Mumford Rd- right of way granted in 1950's.

Correspondence - None

Reports from Staff – None

Agenda items next meeting

Tree Board & Plastic Reduction

Adjournment – Brian Wagner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Nassa seconds. All in favor.