

Conservation Unit Planned For Blackstone Watershed

By THOMAS L. MATTSON
Of The Telegram Staff

WHITINSVILLE — The Northbridge and Grafton conservation commission agreed last night to call for establishment of a 30-town Upper Blackstone Valley Watershed Association.

Formal organization of the group will be made at a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11 in the Northbridge High School Cafeteria. Two delegates, one of whom is to be a conservation commission member, will be invited to the conference.

Flood control, flood plain zoning, land-use, recreation and

preservation of items of historical interest will be among the aspects to be considered by the organization.

A preliminary meeting of the steering committee from the Grafton and Northbridge groups will be held Aug. 14 in the Northbridge Town Hall to prepare for the September meeting.

Communities listed as within the Blackstone watershed in Massachusetts (the river also extends into Rhode Island, emptying into Narragansett Bay) are Auburn, Blackstone, Boylston, Douglas, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Oxford, Paxton, Shrewsbury, Sutton, Upton, Ux-

bridge, Webster, West Boylston, Worcester, Westboro, Mendon, Hopedale and Milford.

Also, towns on the Ten Mile River include Attleboro, Bellingham, Franklin, Hopkinton, North Attleboro, Plainville and Wrentham. Total area of the watershed composed of the 30 communities is about 330 square miles.

Advising the Northbridge and Grafton groups on how to set up a watershed association was Frederic B. Giebel of Worcester, regional resource development specialist from the Northeast Regional Extension Service.

Attending the meeting were Norman M. Taft, chairman of the Grafton Conservation Commission, James E. Houghton, chairman of the Northbridge Commission, Richard T. Larkin, Spaulding R. Aldrich, Jacob Kupelian, Harold A. Riding and Carl R. Swenson, all of the Northbridge Conservation Commission.

Giebel told the assembly that a watershed association is not a land-holding group, but a 'watchdog.'

He pointed out that the Charles River Watershed Association has a legislative committee, which keeps up with various legislation affecting the watershed area, a land-use committee, concerned with floodplain protection and soil surveys, and a water-monitoring program, which provides a sampling service.

The importance of a united front among the several communities in achieving such goals as a Blackstone River state park was stressed.

Taft suggested a brochure be compiled with pictures and extensive information about the river.

Valley Towns Invited To Form Watershed

WHITINSVILLE — Two conservation commissions want to form a 30-town Blackstone Valley watershed association.

The Northbridge and Grafton conservation commissions met last night at the Northbridge Town Hall and set Sept. 11 as the date for an organizational conference.

Two delegates from each of 30 towns have been invited.

Flood control, flood-plain-zoning, land-use, recreation, and preservation of historical items will be included.

Steering Group

A steering committee from the Grafton and Northbridge groups will meet Aug. 14 in the Northbridge Town Hall.

Towns within the Blackstone Valley watershed are Auburn, Blackstone, Boylston,

Douglas, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Oxford, Paxton, Shrewsbury, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster, West Boylston, Worcester, Westboro, Mendon, Hopedale, and Milford.

Also, towns on the Ten Mile River, which flows into the Blackstone River, include Attleboro, Bellingham, Franklin, Hopkinton, North Attleboro, Plainville, and Wrentham. The watershed covers more than 330 square miles.

Adviser

Advising the Northbridge and Grafton conservation commissions is Frederic B. Giebel of Worcester, regional resource development specialist from the Northeast Regional Extension Service.

Attending the meeting were Norman M. Taft, chairman of the Grafton Conservation Commission, James E. Houghton, chairman of the Northbridge Conservation Commission, and Richard T. Larkin, Spaulding R. Aldrich, Jacob Kupelian, Harold A. Riding, and Carl R. Swenson, all of the Northbridge Conservation Commission.

The importance of a united front for getting a Blackstone River state park was stressed.

Blackstone Watershed Assn. Schedules Sept. 11 Meeting

WHITINSVILLE — State Rep. Richard J. Dwinell of Millbury, vice chairman of the house committee on natural resources, will be one of four speakers at an organizational meeting of the Upper Blackstone Valley Watershed Association Sept. 11 at Northbridge High School.

Other speakers, which will consider formation of the watershed group, will be Kenneth Wood, president of the Charles River Watershed Association; Oakes A. Plimpton, assistant director of the Conservation Law Foundation Inc., and Mrs. Marion Stoddart of Groton. Mrs. Stoddart will speak about citizen action and the Nashua River Watershed.

Among objectives of the association, as voiced by the Northbridge and Grafton steering committees of their respective conservation commissions, will be flood control, flood-plain-zoning, land-use, recreation, and preservation of historical items.

More than 50 delegates from 30 communities in the Upper Blackstone River Basin are expected to attend the meeting.

Communities either entirely or mostly within Watershed Basin No. 14, include Worcester, Auburn, Shrewsbury, Millbury, Grafton, Sutton, Northbridge,

Upton, Douglas, Uxbridge, Mendon, Hopedale, Millville, and Blackstone. About a third of Leicester is also within the basin.

Towns partly in the watershed, besides Leicester, are Paxton, Holden, West Boylston, Boylston, Westboro, Hopkinton, Milford, Oxford, Webster, Beltingham Wrentham, Plainville, North Attleboro, and Attleboro.

Fourteen town representatives attended the planning session last night in Northbridge Town Hall. They included James E. Houghton, chairman of the Northbridge Conservation Commission; Spaulding R. Aldrich, secretary of the Northbridge Commission; Robert E. Nydam, chairman of the Northbridge Industrial Development Commission; John W. Walker Jr., also Jacob Kupelian, Carl R. Swen—a member of that commission; son, Joseph M. Limoli, and Harold A. Riding, all members of the Northbridge Conservation Group.

Also attending were Norman M. Taft, chairman of the Grafton Conservation Commission; Mrs. Rita R. Martin, secretary of the Grafton Conservation Commission; Leon Moczynski, Richard A. Downes, and William A. Perkins, all of the Douglas Civic Association.

Perkins is president of the Douglas Civic Group. Downes is a member of the Southern Wor-

cester County Agricultural Conservation Program, and Moczymski is a member of the Douglas Historical Commission.

Serving as adviser to the group was Frederic B. Giebel of Worcester, regional resource development specialist, from the Northeast Regional Extension Service.

Officials of Blackstone River Area Hear the Views of Conservationists

By THOMAS L. MATTSON
Of The Telegram Staff

WHITINSVILLE — Area officials have a wide range of interests that fall under the general heading of conservation.

Some 14 officials from Northbridge, Grafton, and Douglas gave expression to those interests at a planning session this week in Northbridge Town Hall for a Sept. 11 assembly of 50 representatives from 30 communities which may form an upper Blackstone River watershed association.

Purpose of the organization would be to foster flood-control programs, flood plain zoning, land-use, recreation, and preservation of historical sites.

A survey of attitudes toward and expectations from such an organization ranged from frustration to hope.

Jacob Kupelian of the Northbridge Conservation Commission, remarked: "Since 1936, all we've heard from the Army Corps of Engineers and the state is what they're going to do about flood control. But in Uxbridge recently, they said there were no funds available."

"My son loves to fish," declared Carl R. Swenson, also of the Northbridge conservation group, "but he can't now. Hopefully, his children will be able to. I'd like to see a state park along the Blackstone. It's beautiful in places. We'll need cooperation among the towns for building a park."

"First, though, we need to clean up the river. Soil analyses

and land-use studies would be good for showing what the land can be used for," he said.

"I'm for anything that will improve the town, as long as it doesn't raise taxes," said John W. Walker Jr., a member of the Northbridge Industrial Development Commission. "I always believed poverty was only in Chicago or in New York. But many people in this area don't even have a car. With the valley a depressed area, a state park would be advantageous along the Blackstone."

"Don't you think it's our moral duty to take care of one of our best natural resources?" asked Mrs. Rita R. Martin, secretary of the Grafton Conservation Commission. "It's a very grave responsibility. Just think how many miles we travel to get to woods and streams."

Three-Fold Interest

"My interest is three-fold," declared Norman M. Taft, chairman of the Grafton Conservation Commission.

"I'd like to see laws on the books making it higher than a felony for any industrial or domestic waste to be disposed in any waterway in the state," he remarked. "The fellow downstream has a right to receive pure water from upstream. I'd like to see a test case."

"All of these streams should have protection through zoning bylaws or by state flood-plain and we have them in our own back yards."

Leon Mosczynski, a member of the Douglas Historical Society, said: "I believe in

grassroots conservation. Begin in your own back yard."

"My main interest is in recreation," said Richard A. Downes of Douglas, a member of the Southern Worcester County Agricultural Conservation program. "Also, in the sewage problem. We have a lovely, contaminated river (Mumford)."

"We're all interested in improving areas for future use," commented William A. Perkins, president of the Douglas Civic Association. "This valley needs a definite cooperation. No one town can coordinate the whole effort needed."

"Such laws should say that henceforth no building shall be allowed in flood-plain zones because of possible damage to the property and because of possible problems caused the communities along the river."

"All towns from here down to Narragansett Bay have a real problem in house-keeping," Taft charged.

"An old state law says you may not pollute water. It's an old English law," Taft explained. "But mill owners polluted streams because no one said 'no.' But they don't control whole towns the way they used to. And people aren't dependent upon them now as they once were. Thirty towns can stand their ground (to achieve common goals for a watershed area). Also, we need enforcement," Taft added.

"I find it amazing that federal funds are available for many places — from Worcester to Pawtucket, R.I.," commented Spaulding R. Aldrich, secretary

of the northbridge Conservation Commission.

"But as soon as you get to the Millbury town line," he said, "there's not a dime. They come down, they pontificate, but never do anything," Aldrich said of the federal waterway officials. "A little rip-rapping with flagstone — that's all. And we suffer for it every spring."

Harold A. Riding of the Northbridge Conservation Commission remarked: "Unification of the communities may bring not only the common good of cleaning up the river, but I'd like to hope this will show the value of working together in other ways. Communities in the area are going to have to work together. There is the natural state of things, and the man-made. There's so much of the man-made. It would be a big benefit for kids and adults to keep something as it naturally is."

MINUTES OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
FOR THE FORMATION OF
UPPER BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, October 8, 1969

Worcester County Extension Service Office

Present: F. B. Giebel - Worcester County Extension Service, D. W. Griffith - Manchaug, G. Smith - Boylston, J. M. Limoli - Whitinsville, L. Mosczynski - E. Douglas, N. M. Taft - Grafton, J. Cote - Leicester, P. W. Larson - Blackstone, D. P. Garnache - Auburn, R. T. Larkin - Whitinsville, H. Auclair - Blackstone, F. B. Hawkes - Mendon.

Richard T. Larkin, Chairman Pro Tem, opened the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Each member of the group introduced himself and briefly outlined his interest in the proposed watershed association.

Chairman Larkin quoted from a watershed association publication a paragraph which aptly described the purposes of an association. He emphasized the idea that this is a group which informs the public, keeps interest in the problems high, and promotes rapid movement toward solutions.

Chairman Larkin then read a letter dated September 15, 1969 which he had received from Oakes Plimpton, Asst. Director of the Conservation Law Foundation, Inc. (see attached).

The suggested separation of the group into two bodies was discussed in some detail. Mr. Larson suggested that the initial efforts be directed toward a single body. This approach was accepted by the group.

A brief discussion followed as to the proposed board of directors. It was agreed that this board should be kept to a reasonably workable size - perhaps 15 - 20 people.

The sample by-laws forwarded to us by Mr. Plimpton were passed around, read and discussed. The "purpose" of a watershed association was discussed to some length.

The key points all centered on the ideas of researching facts, educating the public, and promoting improvement.

It was agreed that the association's purposes and aims should be broad enough to cover all foreseeable action which might come before the organization. The Housatonic River Watershed by-laws were cited as a good guide, with the exclusion of the section on water supply. It was also suggested that we make mention of historical concerns and specifically the old canal. It would also be wise to include phraseology to cover concern with wise land use along the river.

Funding the association was given due consideration. Mr. Cote suggested that we look to a potential budget for the association and base a dues structure on same. Mr. Taft suggested that the Conservation Commissions be solicited for support.

Chairman Larkin called for volunteer sub-committees to concentrate on developing by-laws, dues structure, and nomination of officers.

For by-laws and dues: Peter Larson assisted by Blaine Hawkes

For nominations: Norman Taft assisted by George Smith and Leon
Mosczyński

The Steering Committee will meet again on Wednesday, November 5, 1969, 8:00 p.m. at the office of the Worcester County Extension Service. At this time we will receive the proposals of the two above-mentioned sub-committees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederic B. Giebel

Frederic B. Giebel
Secretary

Important Hearings on Docket

By JOE MICHNIEWICZ

It never rains but it pours is the only way to describe the plight of sportsmen when it comes to the frequency of important hearings they should attend. There are two, tonight and tomorrow night, that are important to all sportsmen, particularly those of Worcester County.

Tonight at 7:30 the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public hearing at Mahar Regional High School in Orange to review results of current studies on various plans to satisfy present and future water resource requirements of the Connecticut River Basin and its tributaries.



Michniewicz

Whichever plan of restoration and protection is adopted will have a significant impact on Central Mass. residents and sportsmen since the Millers, Quabaug, Swift, Ware and Seven Mile Rivers originate in this area.

Stream flow augmentation, flood control, power needs and recreation of the watershed will all be discussed making this meeting perhaps one of the most important that the sportsman has ever attended in this state. Organized groups will be well represented but they request individuals who take time to fish the waters take the time to attend the hearing and be heard.

Tomorrow night more than 50 delegates from 20 towns in the Blackstone River Watershed are expected to attend a meeting in the cafeteria of the Northbridge Senior High School in Whitinsville at 7:30. The meeting proposes the formation of an Upper Black-

stone River Watershed Association.

The association has as one of its goals, the formation of a Blackstone River State Park in addition to flood control and general conservation projects. Since the river is in the process of being cleaned up it is hoped that warm-water species may be reintroduced as early as 1975 in the many ponds and impoundments along the river.

Blackstone Valley also offers some excellent wood duck and black shooting. Some of the stretches are stocked with pheasants and contain grouse and woodcock as well. Some 1,300 acres of land are proposed for the park. This prime land is in the South Worcester County end of the valley.

The Department of Natural

Resources has conducted a feasibility study and endorses the concept. The state, however, feels the river should be upgraded first before it can justify the expenditure for the park.

UPPER BLACKSTONE
RIVER WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

The Evening Gazette
9/10/69

WORCESTER TELEGRAM

9/12/69 a.m.

Telegram 9/12/69

Blackstone Watershed Group Chooses Steering Committee

WHITINSVILLE — An 11-member steering committee was elected last night to guide the formation of the Upper Blackstone River Watershed Council.

Names to the committee to lead the first stages in establishment of the association for some 30 communities from Paxton, Holden, Leicester and Worcester through the Blackstone Valley area and contingent towns, were Norman M. Taft of Grafton, Richard T. Larkin of Northbridge, Joseph M. Limoli of Northbridge, Peter Larson of Blackstone, Donald P. Garnache of Auburn, Daniel W. Griffith of Sutton, Alfred Barry of Milford, George W. Smith of Boylston, Leon Moczynski of Douglas, Joseph Cote of Leicester, and Robert Paulson of Paxton.

Main speakers were state Rep. Richard J. Dwinell, D-Millbury, vice chairman of the house committee on natural resources, Kenneth Wood, President of the Charles River Watershed Association, Oakes A. Plimpton, Assistant Director of the Conservation Law Foundation Inc., and Mrs. Marion Stoddard of the Nashua River Watershed Association.

After Wood and Mrs. Stoddard told the 34 attending the

meeting of methods used to make the public aware of the need for cleaning up the Charles and Nashua rivers, Plimpton discussed his organization's role as a clearing-house for legal information about establishing watershed associations.

Dwinell promised he would support efforts to file bills relative to the Blackstone Valley Watershed Council's interests.

Taft, Chairman of the Grafton Conservation Commission, made a motion for forming a watershed association. A majority favored establishment of the organization.

Northbridge Gets 'Nosey' About River Clean-Up at Meeting

By THOMAS L. MATTSON
Of The Telegram Staff

WHITINSVILLE — How do you cross a river without holding your nose?

That's what some people living in the Blackstone Valley Watershed Area would like to know.

For the answer, a fledgling group of conservationists met last week at Northbridge High School. Their idea was to listen to persons fighting for clean rivers.

A woman from Groton who said she had a hard time finding Northbridge and just quitted

ely smiled when she walked through the high school cafeteria door one night last week, had a few comments on how to make rivers more suitable for recreation.

Mrs. Marion Stoddart, of the Nashua River Watershed Association, gave an account of how her organization has made people aware of the Nashua River's problem.

The Nashua has its headwaters in Boylston and West Boylston, and that gives it something in common with the Blackstone River, which also starts north of Worcester before meandering through

the Blackstone Valley into Narragansett Bay.

"You along the Blackstone and we along the Nashua both hope to clean up our river in five years," she said.

Methods Used

Then she told her audience about some of the methods used to publicize the need to clean up the Nashua.

One technique her group used that proved effective, she said was the bottling of a sample of polluted Nashua River water later presented to former Gov. John Volpe for use as a paper-weight on his desk. Mrs. Stoddart said newspaper and television coverage of the event did not hurt the Nashua River's cause. She said selectmen and mayors were chosen to give the bottle of water to the former governor.

"On another occasion," Mrs. Stoddart remarked, "we asked the people in our watershed area what classification of river they wanted. They wanted 'B,' she said. "So at a hearing," she continued, "Everyone stood up and said 'B' was what they wanted. Every except the people from Fitchburg. They wanted 'D.' That had an effect on the observers there from the federal government."

She said her organization is very pleased with recent efforts of Fitchburg to alleviate pollution of the river.

"Another time," she continued, "We had 500 people waiting at the airport to greet Sen. (Edward M.) Kennedy and the former secretary of the interior (Stewart) Udall when they came up here to inspect polluted rivers. That caused the Nashua River to be remembered."

"We flood our Congressmen

with telephone calls and telegrams — which is very effective," she said. "We've even petitioned President Nixon to make the Nashua River a model demonstration clean-up area."

Little Things

"Then there are the little things. There was a sign near a bridge over the Nashua.

Which said 'Nashua' and someone had changed it to 'Nausea.' The press picked it up and, well, it really helped."

"Once people start doing something about a problem like river pollution," Mrs. Stoddart said, "more and more people want to help. We've had offers of money and technical assistance. Fort Devens, which holds several miles of land along the Nashua, has cooperated with us, even offered us legal assistance in drawing up bylaws. So has Oakes Plimpton, assistant director of the Conservation Law Foundation Inc.

"We're interested in the conservation of water and related land resources, in establishing regional land trusts," she said.

"People want to help. They want to offer us their land in some cases." She explained that here the importance of a legally constituted body becomes manifest.

The Blackstone River Watershed Association is also aware of the need for a solid legal footing. There is a chance the organization may be given a mill along the Blackstone which could be used as a textile museum. But first, the association has to be solidly organized. That will take about six months, since the group was formally established

lished with a steering committee only last week.

But why so many towns? Some 30 in the Blackstone River group, and even more in the Nashua River Watershed Association?

"Ecology, economy, and expediency," were the answers Peter Larson of Blackstone gave to a similar question at the meeting.

"Everything is related to environment. No one town has the resources to clean up a river. Politically, all towns work together or they'll wind up together in Narragansett Bay," Larson warned.

Kenneth Wood, President of the Charles River Watershed Association, was another guest at the meeting.

He said watershed groups are "in the middle between towns and the state."

Missionary Work Needed

"There is a lot of missionary work to do at the town level," he said. "You find out what the towns want. Then you organize and take it to the state. The state cannot and will not do your work for you."

Wood said the Charles River group has a legislative committee which researches every piece of legislation bearing on conservation, a land-use committee to investigate new industries, a water-monitoring program with 20 stations, and even high schools using their laboratory equipment to test water pollution.

"We're getting the word across," Wood said, referring to the fact that high school students do lab work on pollution problems, then go home and talk about it.

Plimpton told the group that acquiring land along a river

by a conservation easement may be easier than gaining title to it, and it is not necessary then to own and manage the property. He added that the Conservation Law Foundation can help watershed associations with flood-plain zoning.

Class B River

State Rep. Richard P. Dinell, D-Milbury, said he would support the valley watershed group in the filing of any bills that might be required.

Richard T. Larkin, acting chairman of an 11-man steering committee for the Blackstone River Watershed Association, said \$80 million, which has been proposed as the amount necessary to clean up the Blackstone, is too much to spend merely to make the river a class "C" stream. It should be class "B," Larkin maintained. That would permit boating, fishing, and camping, he said.

WORCESTER
SUNDAY
TELEGRAM
9/14/69



CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK

in AGRICULTURE and HOME ECONOMICS

CO-OPERATING

University of Massachusetts
U.S. Department of Agriculture

PLEASE REPLY TO:

Worcester County Extension Service
36 Harvard Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

TELEPHONE 617-753-5477

November 24, 1969

Mr. David M. Rosser
133 Kenyon Ave.
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

Dear Mr. Rosser:

It was a pleasure meeting you at Sturbridge and hearing of your concern for the Blackstone River.

As preliminary information, I am enclosing a self-explanatory file of news clips, newsletters, and meeting notices and minutes.

You will be receiving an invitation to join us on the evening of December 10, 1969 here in Worcester. At that time, the Association will be officially incorporated.

I'll look forward to more detailed discussions of mutual river problems at a later date.

Sincerely,

Fred Giebel

Frederic B. Giebel
Regional Resource Development Specialist

FBG-r

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1970 8PM-10PM

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL (CENTRAL FOR MOST PERSONS)

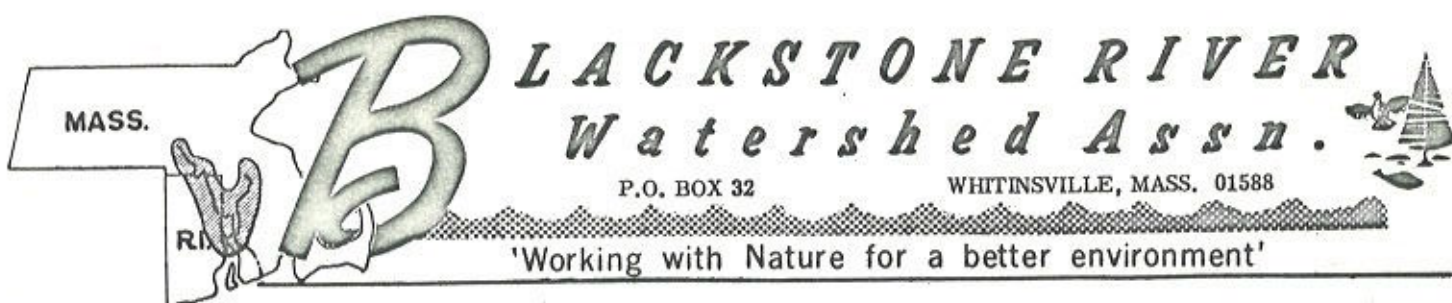
AGENDA: (IT MAY TAKE ALL YEAR TO WORK OUT, BUT LET'S GET STARTED!)

1. ESTABLISH BASIC POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
2. ESTABLISH PRELIMINARY PROJECTS/PROGRAMS
3. RESOLVE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION
4. CREATE COMMITTEES FOR ABOVE

PROGRESS TO DATE: We have a checking and savings account with the Blackstone Valley National Bank, have applied for telephone credit cards for directors use (don griffith) we have a proposal for the Worcester Co. Commissioners for acquisition of land and buildings as a Community service center and environmental education center. This is tied in with the Blackstone Canal proposal for multiple use recreation. Dick Larkin and Pete Larson talked with Mr. Wheelock of Packard mills in Uxbridge about giving the association the canal and Rice City pond. as a part of this proposal we are developing a historical sketch on the Canal.

Dick Larkin is working out letterhead, membership cards, a brochure and map. We also talked with Rep. Kennedy about the unlikely development of a new regional airport, and his role on the Committee on Counties and Pollution Control Committee actions. River Cleanup is shaping up well with even smallest firms having firm plans. We plan an opportunity for you directors to meet in Boston with natural resource and pollution control officials (if we can get you there) This is preferable to "clear the air" soon about our needs and priorities.

See you there! - Pete Larson, Pres.



MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 11, 1970

Present - P. Larson, D. Griffith, A. Barry, J. Limoli, L. Moczynski, J. Cote, D. Rosser, Mrs. M. Roberts. Mrs. Roberts also brought a guest.

The meeting opened at 8 p.m. at the Northbridge Town Hall.

A discussion was held on how the B R W A could become involved in education. It was brought out that to initiate conservation education in the schools we must reach the selectmen & school committees first.

Mr. Rosser told of his ideas for a youth group organized within the schools working on conservation and sponsored by the B R W A. It was felt the idea had merit but we lack the manpower to do anything about it now.

Pete Larson spoke of an essay contest which was sponsored by a New Jersey Watershed Association.

Pete also told of a workshop for teachers on environmental quality at the Waltham Holiday Inn on April 1.

An education committee was named with Leon Moczynski as chairman and Dave Rosser and Dan Griffith as members.

Dave Rosser told of his uninvolvedness with the young people in the colleges about the April 22 environmental teach-in. He said they need leadership and guidance that perhaps we can provide.

Pete outlined how we could reach out into the community by using members who can speak on different subjects. Dan Griffith will try to serve as co-ordinator for groups who want speakers. We could also make up a series of slides which could be loaned to schools.

Pete suggested a camping program at the Upton State Forest; possibly around the third week of June, to dramatize the advantages and need for a park. After this, local conservation commissions could also sponsor a similar program to point out local problems and needs.

We will try to publish a news letter in April. Mrs. Roberts was asked to write on legislation coming up. Leon was asked to write on education especially Quabaug Regional School. If any one wishes to contribute send them to Pete Larson.

A survey of the Blackstone River will be made in the spring. We have volunteered to help in various ways.

The suggestion was made that another year we could make a survey of the legislation involving the Blackstone River and pass the information to the local agencies and communities.

Discussion was held on how to obtain active members besides the B of D. We discussed materials to be sent out to new members. Dave Bosser and Joe Limoli were asked to research materials to advertise and publicize B R W A. (Decals, badges, patches, etc.)

Dave Rosser was asked to make a roster of free information that conservation commissions can send for to put in the news letter.

Dave Rosser was asked to design a membership card or certificate and a brochure to send out to prospective members with rates and information.

A discussion was held on the jet port. It seems everyone is opposed to the jet port but there is a difference of opinion on how to handle it. Some feel we must keep out of the fight while some feel we should support the groups who are actively fighting it. We need to give some serious thought to this problem.

Senator Kelley's bill on the jet port #S1132 will be up for hearing on April 21 at 10:30 a.m. in room 424 in the State House. Those who can, should plan to attend.

Meeting Closed at 10:30 p.m.

Dan Griffith
Sec

G REPORTER

DAY, OCTOBER 30, 1970

SECOND SECTION

Pages 15 to 26

River Watershed Association Meets

By SAMUEL S. REYNOLDS class C rating, which is suitable for boating. However, in addition to raw sewage, nutrients developed by the state was out-which encourage excessive plant life must be eliminated. David M. Rosser of Pawtucket, the only Rhode Island member of the association, offered

Bruce Gullion, director of the Division of Forests and Parks of the Mass. Dept. of Natural Resources, said \$1 million appropriated by the legislature this year would probably be used mostly to acquire some 500 acres between Church Street in Whitinsville and Rice City Pond and Dam in Uxbridge.

Gullion said his department has until June to expend the funds and he expects that a master plan for the project will be completed before January. Then will come the problem of acquiring the land, he said.

The support of the local town governments is important in his department's success in obtaining land from some owners who may be reluctant to sell, he said, since his group has only limited powers of eminent domain and must first obtain the permission of the local governing body before going ahead with legal procedures. One reluctant community or land owner could stall the project, he added.

Gullion said there are options which may appeal to the land owner. One is to sell the land to the department and retain the use of the buildings for life. Another is to sell the property and retain use of the farm or pasture land for a small yearly fee.

He said ownership of the land is being established; next will come the completion of the parkland overlay and finally the acquisition of the land, which is expected to begin late in April.

Gullion said that swimming facilities must be constructed well above the flood line, and water either must be found naturally or brought in, either from town facilities or a system on the property.

with provision in some areas

By SAMUEL S. REYNOLDS class C rating, which is suitable for boating. However, in addition to raw sewage, nutrients developed by the state was out-which encourage excessive plant life must be eliminated. David M. Rosser of Pawtucket, the only Rhode Island member of the association, offered

thousands of color slides of the entire riverway from Worcester to Narragansett Bay. He said his interest in the local group stems from the fact that water pollution problems originating here are inherited by the state of Rhode Island.

The group's slate of officers, headed by President Peter Larson of Blackstone was returned to office. Donald Garnache of Auburn is vice president; Alfred Barry of Milford, secretary; and Daniel Griffith of Manchester, treasurer.



WATERSHED MEETING PRINCIPALS

... Among principals at meeting of the Blackstone River Watershed Association in Uxbridge were, from left, David M. Rosser of Pawtucket, Bruce Gullion, director of the Division of Forests and Parks for the Mass. Dept. of Natural resources; Peter Larson of Blackstone, president; Daniel Griffith of Manchaug, treasurer, and Alfred Barry of Milford, secretary.

Democrats Favored To Retain 6 House Seats

By **GEORGE R. FARRAR**

Barring a tremendous upset, the six-man contingent representing Woonsocket in the state House of Representatives will continue to be solidly Democrat after Tuesday's election.

This prediction has been made by a confident Democratic city committee and by individual members of the Republican city committee, the latter charged

ington is a business representative for the United Rubber Workers union and Durand is a self-employed contractor.

Rep. Jerome Smith is the newest member of the Democratic contingent from House District 63. He was elected at a special election Nov. 4, 1969, to fill the unexpired term of Orist D. Chaharyn, who was appointed an associate justice of the reorgan-

Cass Park during the summer.

Rep. Edward P. Manning represents voters in portions of both Cumberland and Woonsocket in House District 67. He is being opposed by Mrs. Marian L. Newton. Manning, a lawyer, resides at Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland. Mrs. Newton, a housewife, lives at 35 Sun Valley Drive, Cumberland.

M. J. D.