



## Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission  
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



**March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers**

**Call to Order:** 7:15 pm

### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Lesley Bietz, David G. Johnson, David King, Pauline Streinz, Jim Turek, Samantha Wilcox

**Absent:** Dinalyn Spears

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Jim Turek motioned to approve of the February 9, 2022 RCC meeting notes with minor revisions. Seconded by Dave King. **Motion passed.**

### **Communications**

1. Bill McWha: Contacted Jim Turek to indicate he installed native milkweed seed along the Heritage Trail access road.
2. Correspondence from the Environmental Council for Rhode Island - We discussed becoming a member of this umbrella organization. This organization is an invaluable resource for environmental agencies in Rhode Island and communication among each other. **MOTION:** Jim Turek motion to approve membership of \$60/year to ECRI. Seconded by Lesley Bietz. **Motion passed.**
3. Bill McCusker from the Friends of Saugatuck River communicated with the Conservation Commission that they are assembling environmental organizations in Rhode Island to combat the litter problem, particularly caused by discarded nip bottles. Mr. McCusker will be leading a Zoom meeting this Friday, March 11 at 3:30 pm. Lesley will attend this virtual meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

David Johnson indicated we have \$1409.70 remaining in our FY22 budget. The Heritage Trail budget remains at \$1,671.58.

### **Old Business**

#### **01 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from February 9, 2022**

David Jonson expects to complete six cedar bird boxes ready by April 1. He suggested using metal stakes as posts instead of wooden ones. Dave will forward information including instructive video. More

consideration needed on installation method and then optimally complete installation in April.

## **02 Hazard Mitigation**

Jim Turek attended the Town's recent Hazard Mitigation meeting. Input from the Richmond residents indicated that 80% of townspeople thought climate change will substantially impact the environment in Richmond. Flooding and tree damage were most specific concerns. Emily Slotkin who attended the meeting from the Beta Group was hired by the town to generate a report on the specifics on hazard mitigation. The Conservation Commission was mentioned as an integral part of the plan. This mitigation plan can possibly be used for potential grant funding to fix the issues.

## **03 Town Clean-up – continued from February 9, 2022**

Earth Day April 24, 2022 will include set up of pop-up tent at Town Hall, David Johnson and others members will be making clean-up kits, Lesley Bietz will secure seed packets from URI, and Jim Turek will notify Scott Barber and Karen Pinch about our scheduled clean-up. The Sandwich Board and banner will go out at Town Hall green week of April 11; we will be posting digital and hardcopy flyers.

## **04 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – continued from February 9, 2022**

**Beaver River Park:** To date, the RCC has found no viable tree/herbicide companies for the Beaver River Park invasive plant management project. Tree firms are busy. The RCC would like this work done this spring but late August/September would also be feasible timeframe. Jim Turek will contact Joe McCue, a former member of our Commission and is licensed in herbicide management. Optimally, the Town will need the invasive shrubs chipped and taken away.

## **05 RCC Public Outreach Planning – continued from February 9, 2022**

Turtle signs will be ordered, 18-inch x 24-inch, 2each for 5 crossings and each traffic direction. The total funds to be allocated is ~\$300. Samantha Wilcox will be taking the lead on this as the Girl Scouts were involved in the initial planning with her. The signs should reflect the Girl Scouts participation with possible enhanced lettering on the signs.

Pauline Streinz will contact the Three Foragers in the fall for our mushroom id walk. An honorarium of \$175 will be provided by the RCC. Pauline is looking into an edible forager event for this spring.

**MOTION:** Pauline motioned to approve the scheduling and funding of \$175 for the Three Foragers event and Samantha Wilcox seconded. **Motion passed.**

## **06 RCC-RRLPT Collaborative Work planning – continued from February 9, 2022**

Jim Turek will contact Suzanne Paton, the land trust (RRLPT) chair, to coordinate possible involvement in our upcoming Earth Day weekend.

## **07 Solar Farms – continued from February 9, 2022**

No updates.

**08 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from February 9, 2022**

Our Earth Day clean-up flyer will be posted to our website; thanks Samantha Wilcox.

**09 Town Trees and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from February 9, 2022**

No updates.

**10 Town Recycling – continued from February 9, 2022**

Lesley Bietz presented the results of the 2021 Eco Depot: 250 cars dropping off hazardous materials and 17,000 pounds of toxic wastes were recovered.

**New Plans and Submittals**

None

**Other Business**

None

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 13, 2022 at 7 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** James Turek motioned, seconded by Dave King, to adjourn meeting at 9:11 pm.  
**Motion passed.**

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: