



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 7:14 pm

Roll Call

Present: Lesley Bietz, David Johnson, Jim Turek, Mary Doo (late)

Absent: Dinalyn Spears

Guest: Pauline Streinz

Approval of Minutes

Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz, to approve the April 10, 2019, meeting minutes with edits.

Motion passed.

Communications

No correspondence

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Johnson reports the RCC balance is \$1,123.81. Based on the remaining funds, the RCC discussed various needs using the remaining FY19 monies by the end of this fiscal year. Items presented and estimated funding amounts are as follows: (1) Kid's backpack for the library program (\$185), (2) perennial plants for the Town Green pollinator garden (\$100), (3) trickle-release watering bag for the Town Hall tree at the Zoglio memorial (\$30), (4) work tools (\$250), (5) printing of town preserves and park trail guides (\$100), (6) lamination of trail guides for the kid's backpacks (\$10), (7) bat box(es) (\$30), (8) butterfly houses or bee boxes and posts (\$50), and (8) pet waste station (\$300).

MOTION: Turek motioned, seconded by Doo to approve up to \$1,100 in expenditures for the remaining FY19 funds. **Motion passed.**

Turek will contact Scott Barber about the potential need for the \$2,000 that RCC has in its budget for the Heritage Trail project.

Old Business

01 Earth Day Planning – Continued from April 10, 2019

RCC discussed that the 2019 Earth Day event went well with a strong turn-out present for the clean-up. Substantial recyclables, particularly aluminum cans, were collected. Approximately 900 pounds of trash was also collected. We discussed potentially using clear trash bags for the event next year.

RCC discussed the upcoming Farmers' Market Spring Festival event and whether the RCC can help with a set-up of information at the event. Turek will contact event lead.

02 Richmond Heritage Trail - Continued from April 10, 2019

Jim Turek mentioned that he has an offer from Bill McWha of free milkweed seedlings. RCC will need to pick up and schedule plantings at the Heritage Trail site. Turek to also secure free milkweed roots from Charlestown resident donating the materials. Turek to pick-up. Turek worked with Adam DeAngelis to plant the tulip poplar at the site. RCC completed clean-up of the footbridge and stone dust trail, and removed downed trees and branches along the foot trail. Volunteer Peter Paton was able to remove one large downed white pine, using chain saw. Dave Johnson will complete the trailhead access signs (2) for the site entrance.

03 Beaver River Watershed Assessment – continued from April 10, 2019

The Town proposal was submitted to SNEP Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP), today. RCC expects to hear back from SNEP/NBEP on decision by early June.

04 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves - Continued from April 10, 2019

Jim Turek noted that the pet waste station at Beaver River is in a defunct state. RCC should consider purchase or replacement. Jim Turek participated with the Land Trust last weekend on the trail improvements at the Bradner Preserve.

05 RCC Public Outreach Planning – Continued from April 10, 2019

RCC discussed other outreach events we could hold later this year. Topics may include mushroom identification and foraging (Pauline suggested Brett Mayette or The Three Foragers); state recycling program (need to request RIRRC speaker), and climate change (Mary Doo suggested Gail Scowcroft, URI-GSO). This topic discussion to continue.

06 Solar Farm and Proposed Model Ordinance – Continued from April 10, 2019

Dave Johnson attended the April 24 Planning Board meeting regarding the Woodville Road solar farm proposal. The property is largely an open field site. A primary concern over the project was the decommissioning costs for the project once the 25-year project ends. The project engineer needs to complete a cost estimate for decommissioning. The proposal did not pass.

07 Richmond Green Energy Initiative – Continued from April 10, 2019

No updates

08 RCC Web and Blog Sites – Continued from April 10, 2019

We need to add Earth Day write-up and photos to our web site. Jim Turek to send materials to Mary Doo for posting.

09 Town Tree and Tree Ordinance Issues – Continued from April 10, 2019

Lesley Bietz asked about the status of the Town’s on-call tree warden. We are not aware of any changes in the on-call services. We discussed this spring’s weather conditions that will help to substantially reduce gypsy moth larvae survival; tree loss from gypsy moths should be minimal this year.

10 Town Recycling – continued from April 10, 2019

The Town Council meeting next week will include discussion on the transfer station and fee schedule.

11 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from April 10, 2019

RCC needs to follow up with Shaun Lacey on the status of the project.

12 Town Comprehensive Plan- continued from April 10, 2019

RCC to follow up with Shaun Lacey.

13 Tug Hollow Conservation Development

Jim Turek participated on the Planning Board site visit with the developer. The discussions went well, and the proposed layout will have limited impacts to upland forest and no direct impacts to the stream or wetlands. The project will consist of three lots.

14 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from April 10, 2019

No updates

New Plans and Submittals:

None

Other Business:

None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to adjourn meeting at 8:38 pm. **Motion passed.**

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D. Turek". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D. Turek". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Attest: