



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



RICHMOND CONSERVATION
July 8, 2020 (Google Meet Teleconference/Video)
RICHMOND TOWN HALL

Call to Order: 5:40 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Lesley Bietz, Mary Doo (joined 6:14 pm), David Johnson, Dinalyn Spears, Pauline Streinz, Jim Turek

Approval of Minutes

Review and approval of meeting minutes from June 10, 2020 were tabled to August virtual meeting. Jim Turek will send out these draft minutes.

Communications

1. Richmond Troop Scout, John Allen, Eagle Scout candidate proposes to conduct invasive plant work at Beaver River Park. Jim Turek communicated with Joe McCue to assist with the herbicide application for autumn olive trunks. Jim Turek will work on what needs to be accomplished and will develop the project outline for the scout. Discussion was held on cutting the invasive autumn olive and finding a location to piling the debris. Will need to contact Scott Barber, DPW, regarding trucking to the transfer station. David Johnson commented that the autumn olive on the site is thick cover and large trunks. Suggest chipping the debris so it does not have to be trucked away. RCC will contact Scott Barber regarding chipper. Jim Turek purchased several pruning shears a hand saw with FY20 funds.
2. Suzanne Paton, Land Trust, communicated that help is needed on land trust property. A Boy Scout, Laden McCue, is seeking a trail project at the Kenyon Property for his Eagle Scout project. RCC will follow up with Suzanne Paton on work planning dates and times.
3. RIDEM Heritage Program Coordinator, Tanner Steeves, notified us that he is leaving RIDEM, and asking the RCC to care for a natural heritage site in town. RCC discussed management of *Agalinus* (rare plant) at the Beaver River Cemetery. Charlie Brown at RIDEM installed rope fencing at the cemetery site. There are several native plant species that may need managed at the site to maintain species diversity and *Agalinus* at the site.

Treasurer's Report

Balance for FY20 is \$852.17 less costs for the materials and construction of 6 bat boxes (materials: wood: \$211.86 + hardware: \$31.71 + labor of \$90.00 = \$333.57) = \$518.60. RCC to contact Karen Pinch/Laura Kenyon regarding the RCC FY21 approved budget.

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from June 10, 2020

Jim Turek visited the site on July 7th and the loop trail is finished at the western end. A low-sloping ramp extends from the foot trail down to the town right-of-way in the former pasture. The project is complete, thanks DPW. Pauline Strienz and her son cleared mugwort and garlic grass along the dirt road. David Johnson suggested we name the foot trail as the “Upland Trail” and provide signage to help visitors to better acquaint themselves with the trail system. David Johnson agreed to make and post a trail sign.

RCC to take turns and continue watering Spirea shrubs at the Heritage Trail entrance.

Jim Turek will review the site GIS map prepared by Joe McCue for the trail layout, and if we can use to make copies as trail guides. Pauline Strienz updated the RCC on the milkweed plantings. Two trays were planted, but the on-site soils are rather sterile. The soils require organic matter to build up the existing soil and to hold moisture, as well as mulch is needed. The milkweed plants were donated by Bill McWha, South Kingstown.

02 Beaver River Watershed Assessment – continued from June 10, 2020

Jim Turek participated in regularly scheduled call with Shawn Lacey and Michelle West from Horsley Whitten about project status. Shawn Lacey will prepare the quarterly report. Jim Turek gave a brief status presentation on our watershed analysis to SNEP. He will forward the presentation to the RCC. Upcoming activities: consultant field reconnaissance next month, stakeholders’ meeting in August to provide project status and seek input on spatial coverage analysis.

03 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – continued from June 10, 2020

Eagle Scout project at the new Kenyon Preserve property will be conducted on July 11, 2020.

04 RCC Public Outreach Planning – continued from June 10, 2020

Pauline Strienz suggested RCC prepare an article for the newspaper to highlight the Heritage Trail. Jim Turek has the draft on his to-do list. The article will be posted to the RCC social media outlets. Jim Turek will call Karen Pinch about following up with Ms. Price on the installation of her donated benches. A Thank You note was sent to Mrs. Price.

Bat expert, Gerry Griswold from Connecticut, is interested in providing an on-line virtual presentation about values of bats and conservation needs. RCC discussed placing a notice in the local newspaper, conducting a raffle for participants to win a bat box to ensure greater participation in the presentation. RCC discussed the focus of the presentation to be on the benefit of bats relating to controlling mosquitoes and address human health issues. Jim Turek will speak to Karen Pinch regarding a presentation. Presentation should be ~30-40 minutes, followed by question and answer period.

05 RCC-RRLPT Collaborative Work planning – continued from June 10, 2020

Refer to item 3 above regarding participation in trail construction at the Kenyon Preserve.

06 Solar Farms – continued from June 10, 2020

No updates

07 Richmond Green Energy Initiative – continued from June 10, 2020

No updates on the program. Remove from future meeting agenda.

08 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from June 10, 2020

09 Town Trees and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from June 10, 2020

No updates

10 Town Recycling – continued from June 10, 2020

Eco-depot is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2020.

11 Town Comprehensive Plan Update – continued from June 10, 2020

Turek spoke with Shaun Lacey about the status of the plan updates; progress has been rather limited.

New Plans and Submittals: None

Other Business: Fall Clean-Up Event – New Agenda Item

RCC discussed holding a fall clean up event and utilize COVID-19 safety protocols. We discussed coordinating the event along with the October 7 Eco-Depot event. RCC will come up with ideas and how to coordinate event and discuss during the August virtual meeting.

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**

Adjourn: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears to adjourn meeting at 6:33 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: