



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



RICHMOND CONSERVATION
August 19, 2020 (Google Meet Teleconference/Virtual Meeting Video)
RICHMOND TOWN HALL

Call to Order: 5:44 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Lesley Bietz, Mary Doo, David Johnson, Dinalyn Spears, Jim Turek

Absent: Pauline Streinz

Approval of Minutes - June 10, 2020 and July 8, 2020

Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to accept the RCC Meeting Minutes from both June 10 and July 8, draft minutes as presented. **Motioned passed.**

Communications - None

Treasurer's Report

As of July 1, and verified by Town Treasurer on July 14, RCC's FY21 budget is \$1,890 (level funded as last year).

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from July 8, 2020

Pauline Streinz and Jim Turek installed two bat boxes at the Heritage Trail – one along the boardwalk, and the other in the pine forest near the first trail junction and bordering Meadowbrook fen.

02 Beaver River Watershed Assessment – continued from July 8, 2020

Town and our consultant Horsley Witten (HW) held virtual stakeholders' meeting on August 13. The presentation was led by Michelle West from HW. She discussed the installation of the 31 instream temperature loggers, plus status of the geo-spatial data coverages completed to date for the project. Data indicate 396 acres of wetlands present in the watershed. HW stills needs to follow-up with Town of Exeter for potential spatial data to cover the northernmost portion of the watershed. HW will next be completing two days of field reconnaissance and then preparing the prioritization criteria. Project will be completed by the end of 2020. HW will send out summary of the virtual meeting.

03 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – continued from July 8, 2020

RCC awaiting response from John Tripodi for his commitment to the Eagle Scout invasive plant control project at Beaver River Park. Jim Turek along with Pauline Streinz installed two bat boxes, one each at Bradner Preserve and one at Crawley Preserve. Two boxes remain for installation. Jim proposes to put one at Beaver River Park. Possibly give one bat box away as a raffle if we still have the virtual presentation on bats.

David Johnson visited the Beaver River Cemetery to check for the presence of sandplain gerardia (*Agalinus*). Only 3-4 plants were observed in the bud stage. Mr. Johnson stated that many more were observed at the Beaver River site. Plants are ready to bloom. Mr. Johnson suggested mid-fall cleanup and better management of the area for the sandplain gerardia as well as broom grass. RCC discussed collecting native broomgrass (*Andropogon*) seed heads so that we can store for planting at the cemetery.

04 RCC Public Outreach Planning – continued from July 8, 2020

RCC has not yet prepared articles for the newspaper to highlight the Heritage Trail and the bench donation. Jim Turek has the draft on his to-do list. The article will be posted to the RCC social media outlets.

Jim Turek stated that Karen Pinch posted the heritage trail information on the Town's Facebook site and Jim Turek posted the information on the Richmond Community Facebook site, and in two days, there were ~200+ positive responses about this public open space.

RCC discussed the tentative virtual presentation by Gerri Griswold bat expert. All agreed to move forward on the bat presentation to our community.

MOTION: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to allocate \$150 dollars as honorarium for Gerri Griswold to give a presentation on bats and their importance within the next month. **Motion passed.** Presentation will be advertised via RCC social media sites. Jim Turek will follow up with Gerri Griswold and will send RCC an email. RCC needs to place the sandwich board with the bad presentation announcement. Mr. Turek will also contact Cynthia Drummond at the Westerly Sun regarding a potential newspaper article.

Jim Turek asked the RCC for other community outreach ideas besides the bat presentation. RCC discussed hosting a hike, mushroom walk, which was tentatively scheduled last year for September by Pauline Strienz, and outreach flyers and information to post to the social media sites. Jim Turek will send an email out to Pauline regarding the mushroom walk.

05 RCC-RRLPT Collaborative Work planning – continued from July 8, 2020

No updates

06 Solar Farms – continued from July 8, 2020

No updates

07 Richmond Green Energy Initiative – continued from July 8, 2020

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

08 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from July 8, 2020

Turek still planning to prepare a story on the Heritage Trail.

09 Town Trees and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from July 8, 2020

No updates

10 Town Recycling – continued from July 8, 2020

Lesley Bietz queried Scott Barber about the potential drop-off of large plastic kiddie pools and lawn chairs in not being recycled at the transfer station. Lesley Bietz stated she will research this further and provide update at the next meeting.

11 Autumn Cleanup Event – continued from July 8, 2020

RCC made the decision to cancel our Autumn Cleanup Event due to Covid-19.

Eco-depot in Richmond has also been cancelled.

New Plans and Submittals: None

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**

Adjourn: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by David Johnson to adjourn meeting at 6:40 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: