

TOWN OF RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND  
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**Town of Richmond Wellness Committee**  
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898  
Second Floor Conference Room  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 5, 2022 | 6:00 PM**

**In Attendance:** Pamela A. Rohland (Chair), Daniel Fitzgerald (Clerk), Alison Croke, Dr. Robert W. Harrison, Jr., Gary W. Kowalewski, Julie Leusner, Jessica Wolke, and Chief Elwood M. Johnson, Jr.

**Excused:** Thea Brennan (Vice Chair), Adrienne Graffius, and Laura Kenyon

**1. Call to Order**

- Pamela Rohland called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

**2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**3. Moment of Silence**

**4. Roll Call**

**5. Old Business** - Approval of December 15, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes (posted).

- Elwood Johnson made a motion to approve the December 15, 2021 Meetings Minutes. Alison Croke seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**6. New Business**

*Please Note in Accordance with Section 42-46-6 (b) the Committee May Review, Discuss and/or take Action on the following items*

**a. Review of the Richmond Town Council Resolution establishing the Wellness Committee**

- Pamela Rohland reviewed the resolution that created the Wellness Committee which states that the Committee is to determine what is currently available and what needs to be available to the Town of Richmond regarding health and wellness and then make recommendations to the Town Council.

**b. Discussion of Committee Goals and Responsibilities**

- The Committee discussed the federal \$2,300,000 in COVID-19 relief funds that are available to the Town of Richmond. The Committee discussed that the funds must be used by the end of 2024 and be used to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative impacts, designate premium pay to frontline workers, and/or make investments in infrastructure.

c. Discuss and assign subcommittees based on Committee goals

- The Committee had a robust conversation about the way to begin working toward crafting formal recommendations to the Town Council. Members were in agreement that before crafting recommendations they first needed to have an understanding of all the health and wellness resources currently available to Richmond Residents. Members were also in agreement that they needed to gather data and identify data gaps related to the health and wellness needs of Richmond Residents.
- Following this conversation, Committee members brainstormed three potential subcommittee structures:
  - Populations based (youth, adults, senior citizens, etc.)
  - Topic based (Recreation, Fitness, Mental/Physical health, etc.)
  - Task based (Data gathering, Mapping of current resources, etc.)
- After discussing the pros and cons of each potential structure, the Committee decided having two subcommittee's focused on current resources and resident needs was the best place to start.
- Alison Croke made a motion to establish two working groups (Current Facilities and Resources Workgroup & Data Gathering Workgroup). Julie Leusner seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Subcommittees were tasked with meeting between full Wellness Committee meetings and reporting on their progress and findings at the following meetings.
- Committee members self selected to be of the following Workgroups:
  - Current Facilities and Resources Workgroup:
    - Dan Fitzgerald
    - Thea Brennan
    - Jessica Wolke
    - Rob Harrison
    - Gary Kowalewski
  - Data Gathering Workgroup:
    - Julie Leusner
    - Alison Croke
    - Pamela Rohland
- Laura Kenyon and Elwood Johnson can be called upon as needed to gather additional resources and information. Adrienne Graffius will be an alternate as needed. Working group composition may change.

d. Schedule future meeting dates (in addition to January 20, 2022)

- 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday of the Month in February (February 2 and February 17, 2022) at 6pm
- 1st Thursday and 3rd Wednesday (March 3rd and March 16th) 6pm

## 7. Adjournment

- Alison Croke made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27. Elwood Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor.