



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



January 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

Roll Call:

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

Absent: David King

Guest: Antonia Bryson, Stewardship Council and Richmond Resident

Approval of Minutes

The RCC approved December 8, 2021 with no changes.

Communications

1. Samantha Wilcox sent an email to RCC on December 20, 2021 providing a brief report on the discussion with Girl Scouts troop leader, Jessica Spadt.
2. On January 6, 2022, the Town Clerk sent an email to all committees/commissions regarding allowing and conducting virtual meetings and procedures.
3. James Turek sent a draft spreadsheet on January 9, 2022 to the RCC for the members to consider one or more topics they would be willing to take on as a task.
4. On January 11, 2022, David Johnson submitted an email report on installation of trail signage at Beaver River Park.

Treasurer's Report

The remaining RCC budget is \$719.70 under operating expenses. The Heritage Trail budget remains at \$1,651.78.

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from December 8, 2021

James Turek updated the RCC that another down tree is located about $\frac{3}{4}$ the way out on the trail and trail signage also fell and were rehung. RCC discussed installing bluebird boxes at the Heritage trail. David Johnson offered to build six (6) bluebird boxes. **Motion: David Johnson motioned, seconded by Lesley Beitz to allocate funds from the Heritage trail to build six (6) bluebird boxes. Motion passed unanimously.**

02 Town Clean-up – continued from December 8, 2021

Lesley Bietz updated the RCC that the Master Gardeners will be conducting their seed program for Earth Day. Lesley Bietz will follow up with the Master Gardeners. Lesley updated the RCC on the issue with so many nip bottles being discarded along roadsides. There have been proposals to deal with this issue at the state level but is knocked down by all the liquor store owners. RCC will bring the issue of the nip bottles at the Land & Water Summit. RCC discussed contacting the State Representatives to assist with this issue. Lesley Bietz recommended a slogan - "Nip it in the Bud".

David Johnson seeks assistance to prepare the Clean-Up Kits for the Earth Day event. Pauline Strienz offered assistance. David Johnson and Pauline Strienz will address the clean-up kits for the Earth Day event in February/March.

03 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – continued from December 8, 2021

Antonia Bryson of the Stewardship Council stated she reviewed the Beaver River Watershed Study. Items of note located at the end section are things that can be done to help with objectives of study; such as a pilot study. The park is overrun with invasive species particularly on the water's edge which is detrimental to river health. Ms. Bryson stated the Stewardship Council has funding for projects to help achieve the mission of Stewardship Council to protect the river's health. A small grant program is available and applicants can apply for up to 4,000/grant for the project. Ms. Bryson recommended the RCC put together a grant for a pilot project to remove invasive plants at Beaver River Park and she will be available to assist the RCC. A template is located online to submit grants. Ms. Bryson seeks approval from the RCC to work on the grant. Karen Pinch is in support of the grant but deferred to Scott Barber, as the DPW would take on the task of assisting with the removal of the invasives. Mr. Barber was contacted, but has not responded back. The grant application also requires approval from the Town Council. RCC discussed issues with the project: lack of manpower, lack of a licensed herbicide applicator, removal of all the cuttings. RCC discussed possibly hiring a company for herbicide application, stacking, chipping and removing cuttings. The ideal time to conduct the work is prior to the fruit falling off. James Turek recommended that the first item of business for Ms. Bryson will be to write a formal letter to Karen Pinch, to coordinate with RCC to conduct a project and is willing to assist with the project, and require timely assistance from DPW with the project. Ms. Bryson will draft a letter and will submit the draft to James Turek for review before sending to Karen Pinch.

David Johnson completed the maintenance work for the rare plant area at Beaver River Park. Crawley Preserve - David Johnson visited the site in mid-December, and at the end of December to repair posts and signage. Stations repaired were 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 11, and 12. Signage repairs remaining are 8, 9, and 10. Repairs will be addressed when the weather is more favorable.

04 RCC Public Outreach Planning – continued from December 8, 2021

Samantha Wilcox provided an update that the Girls Scouts meet one a month. Turtle signage will be available in approximately another week. Signage will be two colors and approximately 18-inch x 24-inch size. James Turek will provide the specific signage size information.

Pauline Strienz - will take the lead on more public outreach ideas such as spring foraging, mushrooming, and other options for presentations such as hikes and bird call identification (Dinalyn Spears may take on this task), and Geological History by David Johnson.

05 RCC-RRLPT Collaborative Work planning – continued from December 8, 2021

James Turek queried RCC commissioners to lead and work with the Land Trust, working together to enhance volunteerism. David Johnson recommended sending copies of the RCC meeting minutes and obtaining a copy of their meeting minutes. James Turek will send an email to Suzanne Peyton, and Antonia Bryson will inform the Land Trust of RCCs interest in working together.

06 Solar Farms – continued from December 8, 2021

Antonia Bryson informed the RCC of a potential new proposed solar farm behind the Charbert factory facility. RCC was not made aware of the project.

07 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from December 8, 2021

James Turek informed the RCC about Lorraine Joubert, Cooperative Extension, on her groundwater presentation to the Planning Board. Lorraine's Powerpoint information will be posted to the RCC blog site. RCC members were charged with writing articles to post to the web and blog site. Samantha Wilcox will remind David King to submit his biography.

08 Town Trees and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from December 8, 2021

Tree warden contract has been renewed.

09 Town Recycling – continued from December 8, 2021

Lesley Bietz will follow up with the RIRRC to secure results of Eco-Depot report. Town recycling site is still experiencing issues with recycling items: what can and cannot be recycled and recyclables going in the trash. RCC discussed reinstating the kiosk to provide public with information on sorting of recyclables and items that are recyclable. Town needs to provide an educational component. Lesley to follow up with Madison in mid-January.

10 Phase 2 Preserve at Boulder Hills (MTM Development Corp) – continued from December 9, 2021

James Turek provided an updated that the continuation of the Boulder Hills Preserve discussion continued on December 8, 2021. No changes were made to the owner's comments. James Turek reviewed the plans. RCC was not tasked by the Town Planner or the Planning Board for review and comment. The Planning Board gave approval to move forward with the Preserve's project.

This item will be removed from the Agenda for the next meeting.

New Plans and Submittals

None

Other Business

James Turek requested RCC commissioners to fill out the Hazard Mitigation questionnaire, and charged the RCC to think on how to address hazard mitigation in the Town, such as reduced flooding, control of forest insect pests, and reduced fire hazards. The RCC will be involved in the future planning. The Planning Board is updating the Comprehensive Plan and updating its maps. Comments were received from the state reviewer to then finalize the Plan. Shaun Lacey plans to attend either the February or March RCC meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: James Turek motioned, seconded by David Johnson, to adjourn meeting at 8:52 pm.
Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James J. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

