



## Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission  
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



February 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

**Call to Order:** 6:45 pm

### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Lesley Bietz, David Johnson, David King, Jim Turek

**Absent:** Dinalyn Spears, Pauline Streinz

### **Approval of Minutes**

Draft January 11, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed and discussed. **MOTION:** David Johnson motioned, seconded by Jim Turek to approve with minor edits. Motion passed.

### **Communications**

David Johnson contacted by Dory Wagner from the Richmond Historical Society to find out who is grass mowing at the Beaver River Cemetery where the RCC helps maintain a rare plant population. Dory made some suggestions but uncertainty remains on who is mowing the property. David will continue to investigate since the RCC trying to protect this rare plant growing in the cemetery for the upcoming spring/summer season.

On 1/20, Shaun Lacey sent out information about the next Planning Board meeting on 1/24, regarding a major warehouse development being planned behind Riverhead off Route 138 in Richmond. Shaun also responded to Antonia Bryson who is the Richmond Representative for the Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council regarding a proposed low-impact development (LID) component to the town planning regulations.

Jim Turek received an email from Karen Pinch regarding a report of a deer stand present at the Heritage Trail Park. Jim investigated and determined that it appears to be an old stand and is on town property. RCC agreed that 'No Hunting' signage should be placed at the entrance to the park.

Jim Turek received an email from the URI Elizabeth Polhemus the public relation director for the Master Gardeners regarding our request for a speaker for our proposed public education evening to address residential home composting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A total \$1406.43 remains in the RCC FY23 budget.

### **Old Business**

## **01 Public Outreach – continued from January 11, 2023**

RCC agreed on the evening outreach event to occur at the Carolina fire station conference room, located off Route 112. The event will focus on recycling in RI with a presentation by Madison Burke, outreach coordinator for RIRRC. A compost expert from the URI Master Gardener program and another expert from Indie Recycling could be also included in the RCC-sponsored event. The RCC discussed room availability, timeframe, set up of refreshments, and announcement of the event. The Event will start at 6:30 pm.

## **02 Earth Day Clean-up – continued from January 11, 2023**

David Johnson will secure materials and lead an assembly of us to prepare cleanup kits (125). The cost to assemble the kits will be approximately \$180.00 and that includes gloves, bags, and instructions. The RCC scheduled the event for Saturday, April 22, and the event will be in a self-serve format. This format drew 100 volunteers last year, and we hope to continue this year's event with even more volunteers. The RCC will install tables, sign-up sheets and instructions at the Town Hall porch, beginning event at 9am on April 22.

**MOTION:** David Johnson motioned to approve of up to \$180.00 in expenditures for preparing up to 125 Earth Day kits. Seconded by Jim Turek. **Motion passed.**

## **03 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from January 11, 2023**

The boardwalk still needs the water sealant application. Patchy mold remains on the boardwalk. Several dead trees need cutting back as they are in danger of falling and could be a safety hazard to users of the trail. Jim Turek walked the trail on January 19 with Melissa Hayden from NRCS to discuss a pollinator restoration of ~6.8 acres. The town may be able to secure funds through Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank. Lesley Bietz suggested that a watering system is warranted for restoring the park plant community. Our weather is becoming extreme in terms of heat, drought and other climate change events, and new plantings would need watering and care to establish a pollinator habitat. The Municipal Resilience Plan could help to secure funds secure and install a watering system.

## **04 Richmond Municipal Resilience Project – continued from January 11, 2023**

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) funding will provide an excellent opportunity to apply for monies with a potential federal match from a USEPA Southeast New England Program (SNEP) grant, and could possibly be used for the Heritage Trail.

## **05 Beaver River Park Invasive Plant Management Plan and Outreach Signage – continued from January 11, 2023**

Jim Turek queried RIDEM Wetlands Program senior managers about potential permitting requirements for the invasive woody plant removal. Marty Wencek and Chuck Horbert indicated the proposed cutting work would be exempt from the state wetland regulations.

**MOTION:** David Johnson motioned, seconded by David King, requests funding in the amount of \$200 to purchase materials to build up to five (5) bluebird houses. Motioned passed.

### **New Plans and Submittals**

The warehouse plans for the Riverhead facility is a new submittal to the Planning Board. RCC needs to review for potential wetland or other environmental impacts.

**Other Business**

None

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **Marsch 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** Jim Turek motioned, seconded by David King, to adjourn meeting at 8:45 pm.

**Motion passed.**

Submitted by: Jim Turek



Approved: Jim Turek

