



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order: 7:09 pm

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Dinalyn Spears

Guest: Antonia Bryson, Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council, Richmond Resident

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Jim Turek motioned to approve of the January 12, 2022 RCC meeting notes with minor revisions. Seconded by Dave King. **Motion passed.**

Communications

1. Antonia Bryson, Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council, contacted us as a follow-up support to apply for grant funds for the control the invasive plants at Beaver River Park. The topic is presented below under our Parks and Preserves section.
2. On 1/25 Shaun Lacey sent information on the amended Comprehensive Plan to clarify the initiative to final plan changes. There were only minor changes. The plan was in response to the state planning office providing final guidance on the plan update.
3. On 1/26, Jim Turek was e-mail contacted by Dana Millar, a resident of Richmond inquiring about potential conservation practices for his family land holdings of Hillsdale Road, and within the Beaver River watershed. Mr. Millar indicated that he will follow-up with Mr. Turek at a later date for the RCC to complete a site visit once the weather improves, with purpose to offer input on potential conservation strategies at the Millar property.
4. The RCC received an email on 2/8 from the Town Clerk regarding an upcoming Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting led by the Town Planner to address resilience needs for climate change impacts such as flooding, stream and culvert erosion, dead and diseased standing trees that could impact public safety. This meeting is scheduled virtually for February 16 from 6-8 pm, and open to the public.

Treasurer's Report

David Johnson indicated \$1409.70 remains in FY22 budget. Heritage Trail budget is \$1,671.58.

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from January 12, 2022

David Johnson offered to construct the bird boxes for the Heritage Trail property. David needs a budget of \$70 to construct the boxes. Jim Turek will contact DPW Scott to see if posts are available at the DPW storage facility that may help with the project.

02 Town Clean-up – continued from January 12, 2022

Earth Day tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2022. We discussed the format for the venue. Tentatively it will be a similar set-up as last year. Clean-up central will be at the Town Hall porch, and clean-up kit assembly will be led by David Johnson and Pauline. Lesley Bietz will procure the seed packets from the URI. Jim Turek will contact Suzanne Payton from the Land Trust on their possible involvement this year.

03 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – continued from January 12, 2022

Beaver River Park: Control of the invasive autumn olive at Beaver River Park was a focus of our time spent on this matter, with Antonia joining in. With a grant from the Wood Pawcatuck Stewardship Council, the Town may be able hire a tree/herbicide firm to remove the autumn olive, take away the brush and/or chipped brush, and apply herbicide to the trunk stumps to manage this invasive species. Samantha Wilcox and David Johnson will gather names of tree firms that may be able to do the work. We are hoping for spring timeline (by early April) but if that is not possible a fall date is viable if the grant monies are still available. On a second topic, we discussed putting up bat boxes at Beaver River Park once the invasive species are removed.

Crawley Preserve: David Johnson completed new number plaques for interpretive signs 8-10 at the Crawley Preserve.

04 RCC Public Outreach Planning – continued from January 12, 2022

Pauline Streinz will contact the Three Foragers to potentially engage them again as we had a very popular mushroom walk presentation last year. Perhaps consider edible plants walk in spring 2022 (Earth Day?). Samantha Wilcox will coordinate with the Chariho girl scouts to finalize the turtle crossing signs and follow-up with the local print shop.

05 RCC-RRLPT Collaborative Work planning – continued from January 12, 2022

Jim Turek will contact Suzanne Payton, the land trust chair, to coordinate possible involvement in our upcoming Earth Day.

06 Solar Farms – continued from January 12, 2022

Lesley Bietz suggested that better conservation of our forests and trees can better soil retention and is an issue that should be introduced at next week's Town Hazard Mitigation meeting. An example of an

increased flooding problem caused by tree removal should be considered as a focus of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

07 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from January 12, 2022

David King submitted his biography, and our webmaster, Samantha Wilcox, uploaded to the RCC website.

08 Town Trees and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from January 12, 2022

RCC recommends the tree warden or other expert be contracted to address hazard mitigation from dead trees and examine reforestation opportunities in Richmond. Need funds for this task.

09 Town Recycling – continued from January 12, 2022

Lesley Bietz is awaiting the Eco-Depot statistics from Richmond’s 2021 event. She is in contact with RIRRC. Lesley is also seeking to get upgraded signage at the Transfer Station to enhance recycling.

New Plans and Submittals

None

Other Business

None

Next Meeting:

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

Adjourn: James Turek motioned, seconded by Dave King, to adjourn meeting at 8:41 pm.

Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: