



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island



Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898

Wednesday, April 10, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 7:09 pm

Roll Call

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

Absent: Mary Doo

Guest: Pauline Strienz

Approval of Minutes

Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz, to approve the March 13, 2019, meeting minutes with minor edits. **Motion passed.**

Communications

1. Pauline Strienz contacted RCC about attending the meeting
2. Sandy Chartier, from the Chariho Lions Club has a number of groups for the Earth Day Event.
3. During the March 20 public presentation event a number of individuals signed up for the Earth Day Event.
4. Jim Turek was contacted by Beatrice Price who wants to buy and donate a park bench that will either go on the Heritage Trail or one of the other town properties. Jim Turek contact Ms. Price for more information. Ms. Price stated she is researching a bench on the websites. Bench will be 4-feet long with steel legs. The bench requires assembly. Jim Turek provided Ms. Price with the name of the company who made the plaque for Bob Zoglio. Scott Barber volunteered to put in the concrete footing pad. Jim Turek to follow up with Ms. Price.
5. RI Grow Smart is having an awards event on April 30. Cost is \$60/person.
6. Contacted by Green Energy Consumers Alliance – March 20, letter – Community Choice Electricity Aggregation. Saving money for residents and small business. Seeking to see if the town is interested. Website: www.Greenenergyconsumers.org

Treasurer's Report

Last month's balance \$3,412.60. Current expenses: \$17.99; \$135.98 for two canopies; \$112.27 for items in the Jr. Ranger Pack; Lesley Bietz refreshments expenses \$49.28. Subtract 9.52 for the tax. Remaining Balance \$3,214.53. RCC needs to consider any additional purchases up to \$1,241.53 by end of June.

Old Business

01 Earth Day Planning – Continued from March 13, 2019

Earth Day Planning List:

- Lesley counted the items left over, 95 cleanup kits remain with instructions
- Signage language – Date first, Earth Day at Transfer Station, 9am -2 pm. Sandwich board placed at Town Hall by April 15.
- Follow up with Scott Barber on chairs and tables and DPW staff help
- 3 tables, chairs, tents, need weights to hold down tents/papers
- Posters
- Seeds (Lesley to go to URI to obtain more seeds)
- Cooler
- Refreshments – Lemon Water (Lesley), snacks
- Musician – Lesley to contact
- Postcards – Jim Turek
- Trash Tag Challenge Worldwide – teenagers are doing this. Lesley will print out the Trash Tag Challenge (send link to RCC)
- Banner – Dave to look for banner which he loaned to Planning staff
- Maps and signup sheets
- Gloves
- Suzanne Paton Land Trust Days – asked if they could join our event, Jim Turek to contact her

02 Richmond Heritage Trail - Continued from March 13, 2019

Jim Turek spoke to Patrick MacMeekin (NRCS) regarding grant funds for forestry management. Mr. MacMeekin went out to the Heritage Trail site and he also visited the town-owned Kenyon Hill Trail site and found it has substantial wetlands and an intermittent streams. The site does not suffice as a forest management project. Kenyon Hill Trail property is not a good candidate for grant funds. He also found deer stands at the site. The town property is a 19-acre site. Patrick recommended the Heritage Trail site – would pay one-half to three-quarters of the cost with plants that were drought-tolerant, and RCC needs to submit by April 15. Issue: May need Town Council to contribute more funds. NRCS federal funds will assist with restoring a native plant community on part of the Heritage Trail sites. Patrick had a map with the parcels for the native plant communities. NRCS funds are reimbursement only. We discussed ATV abuse on town property and what could the RCC do about this activity. RCC discussed signage and surveillance camera. David Johnson to complete his signage work at the site entrance.

03 Beaver River Watershed Assessment – continued from March 13, 2019

Jim Turek provided an update that a two-page proposal was submitted on April 2, 2019 to the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. The grant proposal is a \$30,000 award with a \$10,000 Match. Jim Turek to go before the Town Council next week on April 16, 2019. Beaver River is now part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system designation. RCC will need to discuss prioritizing what resources that we should restore first.

04 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves - Continued from March 13, 2019

David Johnson did all the upgrades to the bluebird boxes and performed maintenance at the rare plant site. David Johnson recommend that the bluebird boxes should be moved because woody plants has colonized more of the area. Five boxes are candidates for relocation. The alternative is to complete woody plant species and apply herbicide to kill the remaining trunk base of the cuttings. Jim Turek will visit Crawley as well for assessing conditions.

05 RCC Public Outreach Planning – Continued from March 13, 2019

Public outreach event with topics of tree loss due to gypsy moth and wildlife changes in South County went extremely well. Forty-seven persons were in attendance. RCC discussed other public outreach topics for later this year.

06 Solar Farm and Proposed Model Ordinance – Continued from March 13, 2019

Jim Turek attended the March 26, 2019 solar farm presentation before the Planning Board. Seventy-eight people were in attendance, and the meeting was cancelled part way through the meeting due to overcapacity in the chambers room. Next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2019 at the Richmond Elementary School.

07 Richmond Green Energy Initiative – Continued from March 13, 2019

Green Energy Consumer Alliance sent a document to the RCC. RCC will review.

08 RCC Web and Blog Sites – Continued from March 13, 2019

Jim Turek still needs to send information to Mary Doo information to post. Mary Doo posted the Earth Day flyer to the website.

09 Town Tree and Tree Ordinance Issues – Continued from March 13, 2019

Lesley Bietz obtained a free tree sapling and it will be donated for installation at the Heritage Trail. Jim Turek to pick up and plant at the site.

10 Town Recycling – continued from March 13, 2019

RCC will take the lead to provide information on what can and cannot be recycled. We will handout the pamphlets at the Earth Day event. Provide a handout of what and what cannot be recycled and let residents know the Town has been penalized for improper recycling. Lesley Bietz updated that the Town was fined \$250. RCC should focus on banning plastic bags to be in line with the surrounding towns, but will need to bring forth to Town Council.

11 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from March 13, 2019

RCC needs to follow up with Shaun Lacey on the status of the project.

12 Town Comprehensive Plan- continued from March 13, 2019

RCC to follow up with Shaun Lacey.

13 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from March 13, 2019

No updates.

New Plans and Submittals:

None

Other Business:

None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: David Johnson motioned, seconded by Jim Turek to adjourn meeting at 8:40 pm. **Motion passed.**

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: