



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island
Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



Wednesday, May 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order: 6:45 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Lesley Bietz, David King, David Lelli, Pauline Streinz, Jim Turek

Absent: David Johnson, Dinalyn Spears

Dave Lelli provided RCC with information on his background, interests, and his reasoning for joining the RCC. Thanks Dave, welcome!

Approval of Minutes

Draft April 12, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed and discussed. **MOTION:** James Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to approve minutes with minor edits. **Motion passed.**

Communications

- April 20: Shaun Lacey forwarded materials for the Planning Board on April 25, informing us of routine business and potential projects. Proposed 8-lot subdivision on Punchbowl Trail, with a vineyard being included in one of the lots. Also the status of the Preserve and concern over building on the Town aquifer. The Preserve seeks to build a microbrewery – that would be built within the aquifer overlay district which could withdraw substantial groundwater.
- May 9: Shaun Lacey queried the RCC about eco-tourism focus for restoration relative to the forthcoming Richmond MRP Green Bond Act funding application. Shaun suggested that it would be valuable for the RCC to collaborate with the Richmond Economic Development Commission (EDC) and Planning Board. Need further discussion and coordination.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Johnson not present at the meeting. Last meeting total of \$1,030.86 remains in the RCC FY23 budget. Heritage Trail account funds total \$770.30 (but excludes funds previously used by DPW for the Dog Park).

RCC discussed final purchases for FY23 expenditures. RCC proposed a number of supplies and materials needed for meeting our responsibilities in the Town:

- Mulch and garden soil for town hall pollinator garden;
- New sandwich board for advertising events (since current board is in poor condition);
- Combo lock for the sandwich board;
- Portable power-washer for cleaning boardwalks at Heritage Trail and preserve structures;

- Earth Day plaque for the earth day tree at the Heritage Trail;
- Wildlife camera(s) for one or more preserves and/or Heritage Trail; and
- Other miscellaneous supplies for preserves and ecological areas.

MOTION: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz, to approve expenditures up to \$1,000 for securing various supplies, equipment and materials for the environmental conservation needs for the Town of Richmond. **Motion passed.**

Old Business

01 April 22 Earth Day Clean-up Event wrap-up – continued from April 12, 2023

RCC documented 65 volunteers for the April 22-23 cleanup, and on one of days, we had heavy rain so we felt we that the event was a good success. Over 1,000 pounds of trash and recyclables were collected, along with 21 tires. Lesley mentioned that the Town Council should receive these facts, and RCC will email summary memo with the results sent to the Town Council.

02 Beaver River Park Invasive Plant Management Project – continued from April 12, 2023

Right Coast Landscape & Tree (RCLT) will work at the site on Friday, May 26. Dana Millar will also be there to apply the painting of the herbicide on the cut invasive shrub trunks. Jim Turek will meet Lee Wyman from RCLT at the site. Scott Barber agreed to join the meeting to discuss the project scope and commitment by the DPW to collect, chip and dispose of the woody cuttings.

03 Richmond Heritage Trail Maintenance – continued from April 12, 2023

David King mentioned the need for a portable power washer to clean the boardwalk. Once clean, RCC still seeks to apply a water repellent to the boardwalk and picnic platform. Concern is available water source. Power washer could be part of the June purchases in FY23. Lesley Bietz suggested a tree planting at the RHT.

04 RCC Public Outreach – continued from April 12, 2023

RCC agreed that a guided hike should be held in the fall. We will plan for September-October timeframe, with potential hike in the DeCoppett state lands. We will need to consider hunting season concerns with attendees wearing required fluorescent orange.

05 MRP and Eco-Tourism Strategy – continued from April 12, 2023

RCC discussed exciting possibilities of funding through the MRP, with a focus to enhancing town properties such as the Richmond Heritage Trail to stimulate eco-tourism opportunities. RCC believes there would be wide appeal to the townspeople and optimally the Town Council. We discussed how the Town could benefit from the economics of people visiting Richmond to hike, mountain bike, and wildlife watching in our parks and the DeCoppett estate. Need more discussion with Shaun Lacey, EDC, RPB, and possibly others such as Joe Reddish, representing the Preserve, as a potential supporter.

New Plans and Submittals

Punchbowl Trail 8-lot Subdivision – RCC previously attended field visit, with no significant environmental impact concerns, but recognizing the plan does not conform to Planning Board Conservation Development.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **June 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Adjourn: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by David King, to adjourn meeting at 8:33 pm. **Motion passed.**

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Turek".

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Turek".