



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



May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order: 7:20 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Lesley Bietz, Pauline Streinz, Jim Turek, Samantha Wilcox

Absent: David Johnson, David King, Dinalyn Spears

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to approve the draft April Meeting Minutes with minor edits. **Motion passed.**

Communications

John Jacques, Richmond Troop 1 Boy Scout leader inquired about projects for the Eagle Scout candidates to fulfill. He queried about a trail from the Richmond Elementary School linking to the Heritage Park Trail. This trail would involve help of our town planner as other properties would have to be accessed; and would need the permission from the owners to use their land to construct and maintain the trail. RCC also discussed possible work at Beaver River Park, including installation of bat boxes on extended-height posts.

Malcolm Drettel from the Rhode Island Land Trust Council sent correspondence about the upcoming Land and Water Summit to be held in mid-July.

Treasurer's Report

RCC has \$1249.70 remaining in our FY22 budget, and we have \$1671.58 available for the Heritage Trail with no expiration date.

Our memberships to the Rhode Island Natural History survey would be \$100, the Environmental Council of Rhode Island would be \$60. We also discussed purchasing turtle signs, brochures, mulch and garden supplies for the Heritage Trail, and a sign at the Beaver River, highlighting the Values of the watershed, were discussed.

Old Business

01 Earth Day Event – continued from April 13, 2022

Earth Day was a great turnout, the self-serve aspect of the clean-up was a winning formula. Results will be posted on the regular town website in addition to Facebook. Samantha Wilcox will also let Town Council know about the results. Maybe in the future a raffle of plants or coupons for free ice cream/coffee can be considered.

02 Beaver River Park Invasive Plant Management Plan – continued from April 13, 2022

Jim Turek discussed the recommended approach to move forward was to select Horsley Whitten as the firm to prepare the invasive plant management plan. This conclusion is based on careful consideration evaluating the three alternatives, including two other contractors Dana Millar and Laura Myerson. Dr. Myerson would not be available for the timeframe needed to complete the work, and Dana Millar has a strong field horticulture background.

Motion: Jim Turek motioned to recommend to the Town Administrator and Council for contracting with Horsley Witten, seconded by Samantha Wilcox. **Motion passed unanimously.**

03 Comprehensive Community Plan, RCC Implementation Plan Action Items - Continued from April 13, 2022

No updates, and will be tabled to future meetings.

04 RCC Consideration of Letter to Town Council Regarding Nips and Other Plastic Waste – continued from April 13, 2022

The letter would have to be a carefully thought out presentation to the Town Council on the plastic-waste Nip disposal problem in our town. Town Council and all would not want to hinder businesses, but the plastic pollution problem and environmental damage caused by these nips are overwhelming in Richmond. Samantha Wilcox volunteered to be the lead, and Lesley will look into the Governor's new website on anti-litter.

05 Richmond Heritage Trail: Work Tasks – continued from April 13, 2022

A work day to be scheduled to clean-up the area of downed tree branches, put mulch down and possible shrub planting. Jim Turek will email all commissioners and discuss a work date and time.

06 Public Planning Outreach – continued from April 13, 2022

Pauline Streinz will contact Keith Crawley, the edible-plant expert will be contacted to possibly get this event rolling. There has been some difficulty in reaching him but we are hopeful for a May 22 event, or to coincide with the 7 Rivers Festival in late June. Discussion of handing out postcards of our Richmond Heritage Park and Trail could also be included in this event. Future topic: "Where's the Watershed" signage for Beaver River.

07 RCC Website Informational Updates - continued from April 13, 2022

RCC had discussion on whether we should just have Facebook site and eliminate our web blog site. We agreed to take no action and continue our web blog to satisfy town requirements.

08 Recycling - continued from April 13, 2022

Lesley Bietz indicated she participated in a recent webinar by RIRRC. Some takeaways: The landfill will be at capacity in about 20 years. A large problem is the amount of food waste going to the landfill, and to help alleviate this RIRRC sells discounted compost bins. RIRRC asks that people recycling plastic bags should do so at the various supermarkets throughout Rhode Island. All plastic bags should be tied, which will eliminate loose trash, plus bags being caught in trees. Samantha Wilcox emphasized the importance of composting, and recommended this be a strategy supported by the RCC.

New Plans and Submittals

None

Other Business

None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **June 13, 2022 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Pauline Streinz, to adjourn meeting at 9:05 pm.

Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: