



## Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission  
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



### June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

**Call to Order:** 7:22 pm

#### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Lesley Bietz, Dinalyn Spears, Pauline Streinz, Jim Turek, Samantha Wilcox

**Absent:** David Johnson, David King

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The draft May Meeting Minutes were tabled for July meeting per the consensus of RCC members present.

#### **Communications**

Beaver River Invasive Management Plan - A. Bryson contacted Jim Turek yesterday to inquire about the award of the contract. The contract has been signed and finalized. The contract is with Horsley and Whiten.

RCC inquired about the foot bridge that was built across the Beaver River called the "Punch Bowl Log Bridge", and whether the property is State or Town. On June 2, 2022, Scott Barber stated DPW does not maintain the bridge, and the bridge was built by an unknown entity.

Jim Turek was requested by Town Planner to participate on a Municipal Resilience Workgroup (technical working group). The lead for the workgroup is the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District (SRICD). The first meeting will be held on June 14, 2022.

Email from Shaun Lacey, Town Planner - Mr. Lacey contacted Fran Kenyon, regarding a potential connection trail between Richmond Elementary School and the Heritage Trail and potential work being conducted by the eagle scouts. Property owner Kenyon not interested in allowing this trail and access easement.

Richmond Dog Park: Shaun Lacey informed RCC that the Town residents are making complaints regarding pet waste at the Dog Park. Jim Turek stated a pet waste station was purchased but could not be installed due to the very thin soil cap for the site. Question was raised regarding the Dog Park Budget, and if there are funds to cover a new pet waste station. Mr. Lacey stated the budget is still awaiting Town Council approval. Mr. Lacey is hopeful the budget will be approved by the fall.

This year's Bioblitz 2022 will be held this coming weekend at Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Bristol, Rhode Island

## Treasurer's Report

RCC has until the end of the month to complete any remaining purchases. Jim Turek purchased posts for the birdhouse: \$132.42 for pressure-treated wood from the Heritage Trail Account. Recent expenses from the RCC Budget Operating expenses in the amount of \$110.38.

In May, the RCC discussed potential budget items by the end of June. RCC concurred on the following items:

- Mulch - purchased
- Small hand clippers, purchase two pairs
- Trail guide printing for each of the preserves
- "Pack in pack out" signage (one for each park)
- "Do not mow" signage (4) plus posts
- Animal crossing signage

**Motion:** Pauline Streinz motioned, seconded by Jim Turek to spend up to \$150 dollars for the preserve signage. **Motion passed.**

- Decking waterproofing: Three 1-gallon - clear transparent waterproofing for the Heritage Trail.
- Cleaner to clean the wood - mildew remover - one gallon, Heritage Trail
- Composting Bins/rain barrels: Samantha Wilcox will order the compost bins from RIRCC
- Print out composting strategy. RCC discussed ideas for residents to obtain bins. Seek volunteers to assist with activities identified by the RCC, such as, trail cleaning and maintenance at the parks and preserves.

**Motion:** Samantha Wilcox motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears, to purchase up to 6 compost bins for volunteer services work contribution for up to \$450. **Motion passed.**

- RI Land & Water Summit: Early Registration is \$65 by June 16, 2022. After June 16, registration fee will be \$90. Three or four commissioners will attend the Rhode Island Land and Water Summit. James Turek will contact the Town Finance Director regarding the registration fee. Jim Turek will send an email to David Johnson and David King to inquire if they are interested in attending the Summit.
- Bat Boxes: Bat boxes must be 10 feet off the ground. Jim Turek will contact the local lumber companies for a cost to special order a 4x4 foot, 14 ft long pole.

Current Budget Balance remaining: RCC Operating Expenses: \$1,249.70 (previous balance) - 110.38 = **\$1,139.32** as remaining balance. Heritage Trail \$1,671.58 (previous balance) - \$132.42 = \$1,539.16, remaining balance.

## Old Business

### **01 Beaver River Park Invasive Plant Management Plan – continued from May 11, 2022**

Contract has been signed. Jim Turek will send an email to Horsley and Whiten. On-site meeting has been set for the week of June 20, 2022, at the park. Lesley Bietz stated she is available to meet. Dinalyn Spears stated she may be able to attend. RCC discussed the "Where is the Watershed Signage". RCC will need to develop the content. This item will be tabled until late summer/fall. RCC will pick up discussion at that time.

**02 Comprehensive Community Plan, RCC Implementation Plan Action Items - Continued from May 11, 2022**

Lesley Bietz will look into the Environmental Education Backpack created by David Johnson and placed at the Clark Library. Lesley Bietz will speak with the Librarian regarding environmental education opportunities by adding information in the glass display case, monthly or over a course of a few months for public outreach. Display ideas discussed were: Where does your water come from, groundwater protection, composting education, and recycling. RCC seeks to add books on these subjects to the display that will be at the library.

**03 RCC Consideration of Letter to Town Council Regarding Nips and Other Plastic Waste – continued from May 11, 2022**

Samantha Wilcox drafted letter outline. RCC expects to draft a letter to the Town Council to support an ordinance to reduce plastic and recommend the Town Council to speak to the Economic Development Committee on the matter. RCC had a discussion on reducing the plastic waste stream in Richmond.

**04 Richmond Heritage Trail: Work Tasks – continued from May 11, 2022**

Bird boxes have been installed. Wood chips have been spread. James Turek will look into purchasing warm season grass seeds and their growing requirements.

**05 Public Planning Outreach: Seven Rivers Event, June 25-26, 2022, Composting Strategies – continued from May 11, 2022**

Seven Rivers Event: RCC discussed its participation. RCC is not prepared this year to participate. RCC discussed utilizing the Clark Library display case for public outreach information for one month or longer (please see information provided in Item #2 above).

Pauline Strienz updated the RCC that the Mushroom Walk is scheduled for September 24, 2022.

Composting strategy: Please refer to the Treasurer Report section regarding information on compost bin purchase for use in service work volunteer efforts to obtain a bin.

**06 RCC Website Informational Updates - continued from May 11, 2022**

Samantha Wilcox will post the Seven Rivers Event information. The Foraging Walk flyer will be prepared and posted for the September event.

**New Plans and Submittals**

None

**Other Business**

None

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **July13, 2022 at 7 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears, to adjourn meeting at 9:38 pm.

**Motion passed.**

Submitted by:

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

Approved:

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

Attest: