



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



**Wednesday, June 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers**

**Call to Order:** 6:47 pm

**Roll Call:**

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

**Absent:** Dinalyn Spears

**Guest:** Shaun Lacey

**Approval of Minutes**

Draft May 10, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed and discussed. **MOTION:** James Turek motioned, seconded by David Lelli to approve minutes with minor edits. **Motion passed.**

**Communications**

Shaun Lacey indicated that the Planning Board denied the proposed 8-lot subdivision with proposed vineyard, since it did not meet Conservation Development requirements.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Johnson will have budget summary for the July meeting. All final purchases need to be submitted to the Town Finance Director, soon.

**Old Business**

**01 Comprehensive Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan implementation status – continued from May 10, 2023**

Shaun Lacey was a meeting guest, and he wanted to discuss how our commission is fulfilling the Town's Comprehensive Plan. He was pleased at how our group has met many of the thresholds that were established for the plan. Shaun will compile a report and email to our group regarding progress on goals met. RCC explained that we are highly organized volunteer group, and in the last 20 years, we have rarely had to cancel a meeting and have nearly always had a quorum. We are proud of how we strive to protect the environment in our town. We do public outreach; in April 2023, we sponsored a public forum at the Carolina firehouse with residents and other guests to emphasize recycling and waste reduction. Madison Burke, from RIRRC, spoke about recycling and keeping waste out of the land fill. Bill Baddeley, URI Master Gardener, was there to explain to keep food waste out of the State landfill with successful composting. Phyllis Hutnak, Indie Cycle, LLC, also participated in the April 2023 outreach event to help explain ways to reduce our e-waste load. RCC as coordinators also had

many successful Earth Day Events. We have also had many successful Earth Day events, picked up thousands of pounds of litter that degrade our environment and have started a public library educational component with kids' backpacks that can be checked out to people to explore and learn more about our local environment. We have interpretative educational signs at the Heritage Trail and will soon install two signs at Beaver River Park. The signs at the Beaver River Park will explain the importance of the grassland and its relationship to the water quality of the Beaver River; and the ecological values of the Beaver River.

## **02 MRP and Richmond Hazard Mitigation Plan– continued from May 10, 2023**

Jim Turek explained there is federal money for improvements to culverts and other failing infrastructure if agency criteria can be met. The RCC believes the Town Manager and/or other town officials should reach out to the state to coordinate on grant opportunities for our town, and work with the RCC for technical assistance and grant application development.

Restoring grassland and pollinator habitat (~8 acres) at the Heritage Park to improve habitat quality and mitigate climate change may be one project that could be funded under Green Bond monies. Fixing aging infrastructure in our town is also highly important; the town is presently working with some of the money to fix aging culverts that need to be addressed before they fail.

## **03 Beaver River Park Invasive Plant Management and Educational Signage – continued from May 10, 2023**

Jim Turek will prepare and submit the final report to the WPWSRSC regarding the invasive removal work that was completed in May.

David Johnson will complete research for old photos of the Beaver River watershed lands, plus check on agency websites with potential 3-D figures for possible use for the grassland education sign. David will forward materials to others on the RCC.

## **04 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from May 10, 2023**

RCC discussed completing the power washing of the boardwalk weather permitting. RCC will then apply a water-protection coating.

RCC also discussed possible installation of a wildlife camera at RHT or another Town-owned property. RCC will further discuss at the July meeting, once we secure the camera.

## **05 Public Outreach Planning – continued from May 10, 2023**

RCC agreed to a RCC-guided hike in the fall. We will plan for September-October (September 30?) timeframe, with potential hike in the DeCoppett state lands. We will need to consider hunting season concerns with attendees wearing required fluorescent orange. Eco-depot is scheduled at the Richmond Transfer Station on September 30, 2023.

## **New Plans and Submittals**

None

**Other Business**

Shaun Lacey reminded the RCC about the July 18, 2023 Public Forum, 5 pm, to be held at the Town Hall. The focus will be the Consideration and Protection of the Aquifer Overlay Regulations. Water use in our town will be an important driver for the future of our town and the viability of businesses to locate in Richmond.

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **July 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** Jim Turek motioned, seconded by David King, to adjourn meeting at 8:47 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".