



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



**Wednesday, July 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers**

**Call to Order:** 6:43 pm

**Roll Call:**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Draft June 21, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed and discussed. **MOTION:** James Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz, to approve minutes with moderate edits. **Motion passed.**

**Communications**

1. RCC received a communication from Shaun Lacey on July 5, 2023, regarding the July 11, 2023 Planning Board meeting to discuss the Preserve at Boulder Hills request to waive RIDEM permitting provisions/regulations.
2. The Public hearing for the Aquifer Protection Regulations will be held on July 18, 2023, at 5 pm at Town Hall. RCC discussed advertising the meeting on the sandwich board "Save our Groundwater" to reach out to the public to attend. Jim Turek will place a write up for the social media sites. Jim Turek will distribute the Aquifer Protection Regulations to the RCC via Email.
3. On June 22, 2023, Shaun Lacey, submitted a formal resignation from his employment as the Town Planner. RCC is disappointed that Shaun is leaving as he is a respected, competent, dedicated, and reliable Town Planner who significantly advanced the Town's land use management and regulations.
4. Jim Turek received an email from Karen Pinch from the RI League of City and Towns regarding a workshop in response to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to be held on July 14, 2023, 10 am to 12 noon at the CCRI Campus. The purpose of the workshop will focus on how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can work and partner with municipalities on Corps-led projects.
5. Suzanne Paton, Land Trust Chair, contacted RCC, indicating that the Land Trust received the money for the Salia Property and was seeking assisting with the trail work. Jim Turek advised the Land Trust that the RCC can assist with field work.
6. Dinalyn Spears provided an update on the 2023 Bioblitz in partnership with the RINHS and Narragansett Indian Tribe (host) on the Tribe's Church and Powwow grounds. The Bioblitz was well attended with over 350+ participants. At the close of the event, the Tribe received preliminary information on rare mushroom species, rare freshwater sponge, and a host of other biodiversity residing on a small portion of Tribal lands. The Tribe awaits a final count of all biodiversity collected from the RINHS.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Johnson reported on the RCC Budget. David Johnson questioned line item 5260, Dues, and if dues were paid out to local organizations. RCC acknowledged that we lapsed payment of dues to RINHS, RI Tree Council, ECRI, Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Associations. DJ stated that \$712.31 in Richmond Heritage Trail funds should be reimbursed to the RCC account. RCC remaining budget is \$397.90 (that does not carryover). David Johnson will inquire with the Town Finance Director for verifying the 2023-2024 budget amount.

## **Old Business**

### **01 Comprehensive Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan implementation status – continued from June 21, 2023**

Jim Turek to follow up with Shaun Lacey regarding goals met by the RCC and other items still requiring attention.

### **02 MRP and Richmond Hazard Mitigation Plan– continued from June 21, 2023**

Jim Turek reminded the RCC about the SNEP funding and the RFP on May 11, 2023. Jim Turek stated the funding covers assessment, design and permitting projects only. Jim Turek will meet with Shaun Lacey to discuss culverts and other potential projects for funding through the Green Bond funding and other funding solicitations. According to the R.I. Information Bank website, on June 16, the FY 2024 State Budget and Municipal Infrastructure Grant program funding allocation is \$5.5 million dollars (not \$16M?). This is a competitive grant.

### **03 Beaver River Park Invasive Plant Management and Educational Signage – continued from June 21, 2023**

Jim Turek submitted final report for the grassland mowing and clearing. Final report was submitted to WP Wild Rivers.org. Casey Merkle responded to Jim Turek on July 5, 2023, requesting minor revisions to the report.

Outstanding items: Developing the signage and the 3-D groundwater schematic graphic. David Johnson has not hear back from Sandy Neuschatz, Carol Richard. DJ spoke to Richard Wolke regarding obtaining Beaver River Valley photos.

Next steps: RCC to draft narratives with the graphics and photos. Information to include will be groundwater, wetlands, and soils. RCC will address language for the Signage. Lesley Bietz suggested an opening line such as “This is a Special Place”. Perfect for the Beaver River as it has the Wild and Scenic River Designation.

### **04 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from June 21, 2023**

SNEP grant only covers planning and design projects, not construction projects. RCC will seek other funding sources for pollinator habitat implementation. Boardwalk activities: Jim Turek and David King will coordinate cleaning the boardwalk when their time allows.

### **05 Public Outreach Planning – continued from June 21, 2023**

RCC agreed to lead a RCC-guided hike in the fall. Jim Turek asked if any RCC member is willing to write and manage the RCC Blog site. David Lelli will consider involvement with the RCC Blog site.

**06 Scheduled Public Hearing Aquifer Protection Regulations – continued from June 21, 2023**

RCC commissioners encouraged to attend July 18 public hearing, at which time Shaun Lacey will summarize the in-depth work he and the Planning board has completed on the aquifer overlay, and to secure approval from the Town Council on the new overlay regulations.

**New Plans and Submittals**

None

**Other Business**

None

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **August 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears, to adjourn meeting at 8:42 pm. **Motion passed.**

Submitted by:



Approved:

