



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island



Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898

Wednesday, August 7, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 7:15 pm

Roll Call

Present: Lesley Bietz, Mary Doo, David Johnson, Pauline Streinz, Jim Turek

Absent: Dinalyn Spears

Approval of Minutes

Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz, to approve the July 10, 2019, meeting minutes with minor edits.
Motion passed.

Communications

RCC was notified by the Town Clerk that Ania Kent has been approved by the Town Council. She is expected to be sworn in during the September 3 Town Council meeting.

The Town Administrator contacted all Richmond board members on requesting participation by volunteers to attend Ethics Training on August 27 or September 3. Karen Pinch seeks a list of persons planning to attend.

Treasurer's Report

RCC FY20 budget is \$1,890, but need to verify with the Town Finance Director.

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail - Continued from July 10, 2019

Pauline Streinz, Mary Doo, and Jim Turek installed ~130 swamp milkweed donated by Bill McWha. These plants were installed on the backside of the water tower, and on the east side of the stone dust trail. All plants were 1+-foot in height and in good condition.

Trail maintenance is still needed at the west end of the trail. RCC expects to take on some of this work. The trail bench donated by local citizen (Beatrice Price) still needs to be installed.

02 Beaver River Watershed Assessment – continued from July 10, 2019

Jim Turek is awaiting the contract from NEIWPC for the Town to sign. Turek will review contract with Karen Pinch and Shaun Lacey to ensure it is complete before signing. Once contract is signed, Turek will schedule a kick-off meeting with Shaun Lacey, project partners and others to identify key issues and concerns for the analysis, and how each issue can be analyzed. Town will need to coordinate with Mary Hutchinson, our GIS consultant to secure spatial data coverages and overlays, as needed. With input during the kick-off meeting, Turek will draft the RFP for hiring a consultant to complete the study. RFP should be ready by late September with RFP solicitation to be released in October.

03 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves - Continued from July 10, 2019

Dave Johnson volunteered to visit Beaver River Park to check on rare plant species that may be flowering. RCC still needs to take on invasive woody plant control this fall. Johnson proposes to construct 4 bat boxes for Beaver River Park and Heritage Trail. Johnson plans to visit Beaver River Park to maintain the pet waste station and repair the waste bag dispenser.

04 RCC Public Outreach Planning – Continued from July 10, 2019

RCC focused on the planned fall guided mushroom walk. Pauline Streinz contacted Karen Monger from 3 Foragers, a family whom specializes in mushroom biology, foraging, and presentations. RCC is seeking to hold the walk on October 19, 10 am. Thanks Pauline for checking into information and recommending expert and date.

MOTION: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz for the RCC to expend up to \$175 for an honorarium or payment to an expert to lead a free, public event focused on mushroom identification in the field for purposes of public education and outreach for Richmond residents and visitors. Motion passed.

05 Solar Farm and Proposed Model Ordinance – Continued from July 10, 2019

Jim Turek attended the Town Council meeting on July 9, at which time, the Council discussed and recommended eliminating R3 residentially-zoned properties as locations where solar farms can be installed. There was also discussion on requirement for tree screening to minimize visual impacts, and minimum height for vegetation screening. Recommendations would be forwarded back to the Planning Board.

06 Richmond Green Energy Initiative – Continued from July 10, 2019

No updates

07 RCC Web and Blog Sites – Continued from July 10, 2019

Mary Doo will add biography and photo for Pauline Streinz to our web site. Doo also requested updates to “short takes” articles. Please offer ideas for brief articles.

08 Town Tree and Tree Ordinance Issues – Continued from July 10, 2019

No updates

09 Town Recycling – continued from July 10, 2019

Lesley Bietz reported that DPW is completing site improvements at the transfer station.

10 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from July 10, 2019

No updates

11 Town Comprehensive Plan – continued from July 10, 2019

The Planning board has scheduled August 27 as public meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Plan updates. Dave Johnson suggested that the Plan should include information on the Historical Commission and its mission; include photo of the Meadowburg animal pound off Carolina Nooseneck Road as a submittal for the Plan update. We also discussed the need to add information on solar farm planning and the need to mitigate impacts from solar farms, particularly the loss of forest. Jim Turek suggested that approval of solar farms with tree removal could include compensatory mitigation costs based on loss of green carbon sequestering.

12 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from July 10, 2019

No updates

New Plans and Submittals:

None

Other Business:

None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dave Johnson to adjourn meeting at 9:02 pm. **Motion passed.**

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: