



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



August 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order: 7:18 pm

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Dinalyn Spears, Samantha Wilcox

Approval of Minutes

The draft July 13 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and discussed. **MOTION:** Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Pauline Streinz to approve of minutes with minor edits. **Motion Passed.**

Communications

No written or email communications. Lesley noted that Town Council approved of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Treasurer's Report

David Johnson will contact Laura Kenyon to verify the FY23 budget and budget categories for the RCC. Signage purchases by Pauline Streinz will go to FY23 according to Laura Kenyon.

Old Business

01 Land and Water Summit Wrap-up – continued from July 13, 2022

Commissioners who attended the summit provided brief summaries of the workshops. Dave King appreciated the presentation on animal trail cameras and how the methods can apply to RCC work and outreach. He mentioned that as a follow-up, he contacted Bushnell about the faulty cameras we purchased from them, and seek to return them for repair or replacement. Dave also attended the session on the shoreline access bill; this important draft legislation was tabled by the state Senate until the next session. Lesley Bietz attend the plastics waste session which included a presentation by Bill McCusker on the upcoming "Nipathon" ban campaign. He will be starting a winter nip clean-up and awareness event later this year, and this will tie into our plastic reduction initiative. Mr. McCusker will be contacting the RCC later this year. Lesley also spoke about the solar farm session; more than 1000 acres of forest have been lost in Rhode Island attributed to solar farm construction. Pauline Streinz attended the water resources session and food recovery for composting; URI Cooperative Extension has an upcoming course that would be good for RCC to attend. Pauline also attended a

river and watershed roundtable discussion that included the Saugatucket River and environmental work efforts in the watershed.

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

Horsley Whitten (HW) completed the assessment report submitted on August 23, and Jim Turek will compile the RCC comments to provide to HW by August 26. Our hope is for a local vendor to begin the actual invasive plant work this fall. RCC also hopes to have an interpretive sign “Where is the Watershed” to be installed at the park to help identify and link grassland and wetland habitat related to the river. The sign will enhance the importance and understanding of the value of the watershed such as groundwater and surface water resources. RCC had discussion on potential funding to pay for this sign; potential for Wood Pawcatuck Stewardship Council funding. Jim will speak with Antonia Bryson regarding our fund needs.

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

Clark Library Project display: Jim Turek will contact Lorraine Joubert, URI Cooperative Extension water quality expert about availability of a diorama through her or the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association on loan. The diorama if available could be a component in the display case. This year's drought has become a state wide problem evidenced in reservoirs, well water and wildlife being impacted. So our outreach planned at the library is well timed. David Johnson will complete preparation of the junior ranger backpacks as public educational tool for our resident youth. Dave will coordinate the drop off and use of the backpacks.

04 Richmond Municipal Resilience Project – continued from July 13, 2022

Virtual Meeting with the stakeholders September 28, 9-12. The meeting topics are still in the preliminary stages and the public is not yet invited to this project. TNC proposes a limited number of attendees to participate.

05 Waste Reduction – continued from July 13, 2022

Lesley Bietz will coordinate with Bill McCusker, lead for the Friends of the Saugatuck River, regarding a “ban on the nips” project, and how the conservation commissions in Rhode Island could move forward with a strategy.

06 Richmond Heritage Trail – continued from July 13, 2022

RCC had discussion on the annual cleaning and staining of the boardwalk with a work date to be scheduled. We will look to complete work in September. Boardwalk cleaning is contingent on application before forecasted rain event.

07 RCC Public Outreach – continued from July 13, 2022

Mushroom walk: the Mongers, mushroom experts, will lead this walk at the Heritage Trail On September 24, 10 am –noon. A flyer will be designed and posted. Samantha Wilcox will be the liaison and leader for the event this year. The fee for the presenters will be \$175. Jim Turek will request a check from the Finance Director for the honorarium payment.

Conservation backpacks: David Johnson will also prepare and include a backpack for children with age appropriate environmental exploration tools such as a magnifying glass, binoculars to be included in the display

case with our upcoming exhibit. The goal of this backpack project is to encourage environmental exploration in youth in our community, and the backpacks will be available for checking out of the library.

Composting: Jim Turek will contact Samantha Wilcox to secure the compost bins to store at the shed at DPW.

07 RCC Website – continued from July 13, 2022

Jim Turek will have flyer prepared by Denise Turek and then have Samantha Wilcox post to our website. Add information on the October 1 Eco-Depot event in Richmond.

New Plans and Submittals

None

Other Business

None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 14, 2022 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: Jim Turek motioned, seconded by David King, to adjourn meeting at 8:56 pm.

Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: