



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



Wednesday, September 11, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 7: 09 pm

Roll Call

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

Absent: Mary Doo

Guest: Samantha Wilcox

Approval of Minutes

Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz, to approve the August 7, 2019, meeting minutes with minor edits. **Motion passed.**

Communications

Email from Ania Kent sought to join the RCC but indicated that she has over extended herself and will not be able to commit to the RCC as commissioner. Jim Turek will contact her to ensure she submits a formal resignation to Town Hall.

RCC contacted by Samantha Wilcox who is interested in possibly joining the RCC.

On August 13, Jim Turek visited the Beaver River site and noticed an abundance of rare plants growing in the known restoration site – over 100 plants. At least 33 plants were also located at the cemetery site. Jim Turek received an email from the Wild Plant Trust, Micah Jasney, seeking permission to survey plants at the cemetery site. Jim Turek responded back regarding the cemetery and counted 33 plants in the informal survey. Jim Turek requested a copy of the WPT report, when available.

Kassi Archambault contacted the RCC regarding the new wetland revision rules, seeking review and comments. The proposed regulations are to improve the processing time and better protect buffers along streams and rivers.

Town Facebook Page: State called the Town regarding a deer possibly infected with EEE. Test results confirmed EEE in deer and within the Town of Richmond.

The Richmond Rural Land Protection Trust constructed a vernal pond at the Scudder Preserve; work included installing a silt fence to protect the Eastern spadefoot toad from nearby hay mowing, once they are released by the Roger Williams Zoo staff. Pauline Streinz assisted with the silt fence installation. Roger Williams Zoo will deliver the toads and the land trust is seeking a team to track where they go, initially. The plan is to release the toads on September 15, if the weather conditions are appropriate.

Treasurer's Report

RCC FY20 budget is \$1,890, but need to verify with the Town Finance Director. This meeting: Jim Turek submitted a voucher in the amount of \$75.48 (fuel and blades for the brush cutter for vegetation maintenance at the town properties). RCC FY20 current budget is \$1,814.52.

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail - Continued from August 7, 2019

Pauline Streinz visited the site two weeks ago and remove more invasive plants. At the easternmost cross trail, Jim Turek cleared of vegetation and added wood chips to improve trail for public use. Additional trail pruning of shrubs at the western end of the foot trail needs to be completed. RCC commissioners have noted potential loitering at the parking lot and dumping of items (cigarettes). RCC will monitor activity before informing town law enforcement.

RCC discussed the maintenance of the Heritage Trail and potential assistance from the DPW. RCC needs guidance on how to work with the DPW. 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 citizens (Beatrice Price) still needs to be installed. Jim Turek will speak with Karen Pinch and possible schedule a site visit. A key is required for the gate, and RCC does not have a key.

02 Beaver River Watershed Assessment – Continued from August 7, 2019

Jim Turek handed out a draft copy of the watershed assessment criteria and means for each analysis. A consultant will be hired to conduct the study to identify restoration and protection through land purchase. The Town has signed the contract, and the contract will next be countersigned by NEIWPC. A meeting will be scheduled in the next couple weeks to discuss items that should be included in the study.

03 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves - Continued from August 7, 2019

David Johnson still plans to build bat boxes for installation at the preserves. The pet waste station at Beaver River Park was cleaned. David Johnson suggested a “Carry In/Carry Out” policy and have pet waste dispenser available at the kiosk. RCC willing to try this method before ordering a new pet waste station. RCC to research signage for the pet waste issue (e.g., “Remove Pet Waste”).

Beaver River: See “Communications” above for Beaver River Park rare plants.

04 RCC Public Outreach Planning – Continued from August 7, 2019

Jim Turek distributed a draft flyer for the October 19 mushroom walk for review and feedback. Flyer will now include: Title: Join in a Guided Mushroom Walk – Mushroom Identification for Beginners, Time: 10 am to 12 noon, Location: Off Route 138 across from Meadowbrook Golf Course, 3 Country Acres Road; to be led by the Monger Family. Denise Turek will complete the final flyer for posting, soon.

Lesley Beitz suggested informing Scott Barber about the mushroom event and the need for trail upgrades.

RCC will need clarity on 30 person limit and does this number include the RCC Commissioners? Pauline Streinz will follow up with the Mongers.

Jim Turek to prepare “Short Takes” the on Land Trust Scudder Property vernal pool article.

05 Solar Farm and Proposed Model Ordinance – Continued from August 7, 2019

Jim Turek and Pauline Streinz attended the Planning Board meeting on August 27. Town Council requested more definitive approach on the ordinance, whereas R3-zoned properties should no longer be allowed for solar farm development. Turek noted that at the meeting, the Planning Board did not take any comments from the audience. Comprehensive Plan - Planning Board did not seek input. Pierre Duval is responsible for the environmental resources section, and may need input from RCC. RCC to follow up on outcome of September 10 Planning Board Meeting.

06 Richmond Green Energy Initiative – Continued from August 7, 2019

No updates

07 RCC Web and Blog Sites – Continued from August 7, 2019

Mushroom flyer to be posted to the Town’s and RCC web sites when ready.

08 Town Tree and Tree Ordinance Issues – Continued from August 7, 2019

Scott Barber attended the Town Council meeting and stated there are many dead trees along Town roads. Richmond was hit hard by the gypsy moth in 2018, causing significant tree mortality. Lesley Bietz stated the National Grid will be coming into the Town to clear dead trees.

09 Town Recycling – continued from August 7, 2019

Lesley Bietz mentioned that Eco Depot is scheduled for October 12 at the Richmond Transfer Station from 8 am to 12 pm. She also noted that the dates in the RIRRC are incorrect. Lesley Bietz will call RIRRC tomorrow regarding the flyer dates to have the dates corrected.

10 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from August 7, 2019

No updates

11 Town Comprehensive Plan – continued from August 7, 2019

The Planning Board is substantially behind in the updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Jim Turek will resubmit the previous RCC comments. David Johnson would like to see the language under the historic sites such as landscape, historical features, historical sites etc. David Johnson will propose to share narrative, as needed. Additional features should be added, such as stream and river miles in the watershed, and the names of rivers and streams within the watershed, expected climate change impacts, solar farms in the context of development, and historic features in the context of landscape features. Jim Turek asked RCC commissioners to review the comprehensive plan and provide constructive input.

12 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from August 7, 2019

No updates

New Plans and Submittals:

None

Other Business:

Ethics Training: Pauline, Lesley and David attended the training. Information covered not taking bribes, hiring family members, recusing yourself, abstaining. The training was timely and informative.

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: David Johnson motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears to adjourn meeting at 9:04 pm.
Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: