



# Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission  
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



**RICHMOND CONSERVATION  
January 11, 2017  
RICHMOND TOWN HALL**

**Call to Order: 7:12 pm**

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** Lesley Bietz, Mary Doo, Joe McCue, Dinalyn Spears, Jim Turek

**Absent:** David Johnson, Nichole Phelps

## **Approval of Minutes**

**Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears to accept the December 13, 2016 meeting minutes with minor edits. Motion passed.**

## **Communications**

1. Denise Stetson forwarded set of revised preliminary plans for Altamonte Ridge on December 14, 2016. The RCC previously submitted input on the stormwater management plan. A Public hearing opened on January 10, 2017. RCC is not aware of the outcome of the public meeting. RCC has no further comments on the previous comments submitted regarding stormwater management.
2. RCC received notice regarding the Land & Water Summit to be held on March 17, 2017.
3. Legal Notice – FRA Final EIS Northeast Corridor – RCC to submit comments by January 31, 2017.
4. Laura Meyerson, faculty at URI, Natural Resources Sciences – is seeking a student project for the fall of 2017.

## **Treasurer's Report**

RCC budget remains the same at \$1,490.08

## **Old Business**

### **01 RIDEM Trail Grant/Trail Design and Construction – Continued from December 13, 2016**

Andrew DeAngelis, Eagle Scout candidate, will complete foot trail improvement project and trail graphics this upcoming spring based on the RCC-approved workplan from last November. Jim Turek and Paul Jarry, Scout Master, signed off on the plan. The workplans scope of work includes: foot trail with minor ground clearing,

removal or stumps and fallen trees across trail, rock piles, hacksaw removal of remnant plastic stand pipes, paint blazes, create the trail connector maps, and build steps on a steep-trail incline.

Jim Turek sent memo to Town Council and Administrator to obtain approval to award a contract to the low construction bidder. RCC discussed the budget for the remaining project components. We will need money for top soil, native grass seeds, wildflower seed mix, parking lot, and building the footbridge at west end of site. RCC will likely apply for RIDEM Trail funds for a possible match. Funds of ~\$85K may be needed to finish project. The Town Council meeting is next Tuesday at 7 pm for approval of \$215,300 dollars to Sumco. The Town will purchase the remaining materials to complete the loop trail (projected at \$22,056). We will need to spend \$240,473 budget by June 30. Jim Turek will apply for a \$3,000 mini grant to RIDEM for current, minor shortfall. David Johnson and Jim Turek tasked themselves to apply for grant funds with RI Humanities and other funding sources for the historical signage for the trail.

## **02 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – Continued from December 13, 2016**

**Beaver River Park** – Joe McCue gave an update that he was contacted by Laura Meyerson of URI, Natural Resources Sciences, looking for a student project for the fall of 2017.

**Crawley Preserve** – No update

**Bradner Preserve** – No update

**Stetson Preserve** – Jim Turek suggested placing a fact sheet on kiosk, as opposed to a interpretive trail, that highlights the glacial boulders, ground water spring, and ferns.

## **03 RCC Web and Blog Sites – Continued from December 13, 2016**

Commissioners were asked to complete biographic updates. Jim Turek will write the article on volunteerism for the blog site. Jim Turek will also prepare an article on the Richmond Heritage Trail. Mary Doo will add 2017 Land & Water Summit announcement and Food Waste Recycling web links to the recycling section.

## **04 Environmental Awareness Planning 2017 – Continued from December 13, 2016**

Lesley Bietz suggested adding green LED lights and wrap around the Town Green gazebo and light up for one week in reference to the Heritage Trail, Earth Day, opening of the trail, improve recycling, and/or Go Green event. Another suggestion is to place fact sheet in Town Hall and post to the website and blog site about events. Lesley Bietz and David Johnson will research lighting system and projected costs. The Environmental Awareness planning was tabled until next month. David Johnson was tasked to research geo-caching activity, per previous meeting discussion.

## **05 Town Tree and Ordinance Issues – Continued from December 13, 2016**

Lesley Bietz will continue funding search and contact Pepsi for additional funds for the tree management plan.

## **06 Town Recycling – Continued from December 13, 2016**

Lesley Bietz contacted Eco-Depot regarding funds received, was referred to Scott Barber. Lesley Bietz has not heard back from Scott Barber at this time. Lesley Bietz received a call from the Chariho School Board regarding the clothing drop box next to the Richmond Elementary School. The monies raised from the clothing

drop totaled \$10,225 for past year. The PTO handles the funds. RCC will inquire how the funds enhance the town, and whether any funds are allocated to environmental issues.

**07 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – Continued from December 13, 2016**

No update

**08 Camelot Estates Dam and Fish Passage – Continued from December 13, 2016**

No update

**09 RCC Public Outreach Planning for 2017 – Continued from December 13, 2016**

From the last meeting, RCC discussed environmentally-friendly ways for Richmond families to save money and result in environmental benefits.

- Solar Energy – collect information from existing solar facilities such as solar farm off of Stilson Road.
- Discuss potential solar farm at the town-owned Richmond Commons open space
- Transfer Station Self Delivery to save money

**New Plans and Submittals:** FRA NEC Future Tier 1 Final EIS Preferred Alternative including Old Saybrook-Kenyon Bypass

**Other Business:** FY18 Budget – Need to submit budget to Town Treasurer for Finance Committee review, ASAP

RCC will request remaining funds for the trail. RCC also discussed line-item funding levels for FY2018, as follows:

- Commissioner Training - \$200
- General Supplies - \$250
- Organizational Dues - \$200
- Operating Expenses – for the plant patch, mulch, plants, soil, maintenance - \$150, herbicides, trail maintenance - \$100, Environmental Awareness Event(s) - \$500, Honorarium for speaker(s): \$150
- Commissioner Travel - \$50

RCC will revisit Photo Contest; add as topic of future Environmental Awareness Planning

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears to adjourn meeting at 8:43 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by: Dinalyn Spears

Approved: 

Attest: 