



## Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission  
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898



January 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
Meeting at Town Hall Council Chambers

**Call to Order:** 6:46 pm

### **Roll Call:**

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

**Absent:** David King

### **Approval of Minutes**

Draft December 14, 2022, meeting minutes were reviewed and discussed. **MOTION:** James Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears to approve with minor edits. Motion passed.

### **Communications**

1. 1/4: Jim Turek was contacted by Robin Buranowski, Rhode Island Natural History Survey, regarding plant management at Beaver River Cemetery. She inquired about the unmowed patch that the RCC assists the Town in managing. Ms. Buranowski asked if the invading woody willows could be removed to benefit sustaining the rare plant. She also inquired about expanding the site due to the rare plants growing along the edge and outside the patch. Jim sent a message to Scott Barber, DPW, regarding the person(s) who mow the cemetery. Mr. Barber replied that a contractor likely mows the cemetery, but DPW does not provide assistance. Jim contacted Erin Liese and Karen Pinch regarding the Town's potential management of the property. They responded that the Town does not have responsibility over who mows the cemetery. David Johnson will discuss the management with the Richmond Historical Society to inquire who mows the site, and will provide an update at the February meeting.
2. 1/11: Jim Turek was contacted by Shaun Lacey, Town Planner, regarding the Richmond Municipal Resiliency Plan, and to develop a strategy for the forthcoming grant funding through the Rhode Island Infrastructure Board (RIIB). Jim participated in call with Shaun and Renee Stoops of the Southern RI Conservation District (SRICD), regarding potential projects to include in a grant application. Shawn will work with Scott Barber on developing a list of projects for potential funding. Ms. Stoops can assist with the application, but may require a nominal funding fee as part of the grant award. Types of projects that would be ideal are shovel-ready projects and engineering design for culvert replacement. Mr. Lacey stated that PL566 funding from NRCS would be more applicable for longer-term projects such as KG Ranch Road and Valley Lodge Estates flooding to assist with culvert replacement and stormwater management. Pauline Streinz recommended wildlife passageways as a component of the green infrastructure projects. The call with RIIB is scheduled for January 20.
3. 1/11: Jim Turek received email from Melissa Hayden, NRCS, to meet with her on January 18, 9 am to discuss potential pollinator restoration at the Heritage Trail.

4. 1/11: Email from Tom Ardito, SNEP funds manager, that SNEP grant funding solicitation comes out in February. These grants are more habitat focused and may be possible funding for water quality and habitat projects.
5. Lesley Bietz handed out a fact sheet that she received from of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island identifying preserves in Richmond and surrounding towns.

### **Treasurer's Report**

No changes in the RCC budget. Total funds remain at \$1,591.

### **Old Business**

#### **01 Outreach to Secure Commissioner for Open Seat on RCC – continued from December 14, 2022**

Jim Turek will contact Karen Pinch and Erin Liese regarding posting the open seat to Town's website and solicit interest with flyer at Clark Library and elsewhere.

#### **02 Beaver River Park Invasive Plant Management Plan and Outreach Signage – continued from December 14, 2022**

RCC received approval from the Town Council at its December 20 meeting to submit the two grant applications. Two grant applications were submitted on December 29, 2022. Kassi Donnelly, WPWSRSC, inquired in follow-up email about any approval required from RIDEM for invasive plant removal in the wetland buffer, and whether a regulatory approval for cutting invasive shrubs is required.

#### **03 Comprehensive Community Plan, RCC Implementation Plan Action Items, Clark Library Project – Continued from December 14, 2022**

RCC discussed options for creating and disseminating groundwater resource information (similar to the Town of Narragansett Water Conservation Flyer), and RCC will consider producing information briefs for the Town's Website, Richmond RI Community Facebook site, and the RCC Blog site. Dinalyn Spears was tasked with seeking information from Tribal sources and other potential sources on groundwater resources and specifically, potential available graphics to explain groundwater concepts for public education.

#### **04 Richmond Municipal Resilience Project – continued from December 14, 2022**

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) funding RFP comes out in February. Please refer to the above Communications section relating to the Richmond Municipal Resilience Plan. A virtual meeting with the RIIB is scheduled for January 20 for constructive input on the developing the grant application.

#### **05 RCC Priority Projects, Work Activities, and Commission responsibilities for 2023 – continued from December 14, 2022**

Earth Day event is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, 2023. RCC will need to dedicate time to plan for the event.

Lesley Bietz will pick up the 200 free seed packets from URI on Saturday, January 14. David Johnson will lead production of clean-up kits.

**MOTION:** David Johnson made a motion to allocate up to \$175 to purchase items for the roadside clean up kits for the Earth Day 2023 event. Seconded by Pauline Streinz. **Motion passed.**

RCC discussed event timeline scheduling:

**March:** Evening, weekday event on Recycling to be presented by Madison Burke, followed by a Composting presentation. Lesley Bietz will contact Ms. Burke to confirm presentation and best date(s) for the event. Dinalyn Spears was tasked with contacting URI Master Gardeners for presentation by expert with compost bins and composting. Pauline Streinz will contact IndiCycle about a presentation or attendance at the March event. The event will also include raffling of composting bin(s). Possible dates; weekday evenings are as follows: March 21-23 and/or March 28-30. JimTurek will contact organizers of the Land & Water Summit about a potential RCC presentation.

**April:** RCC Earth Day event.

**May/June:** Foraging/edibles – Pauline Streinz will reach out to local foragers. Lesley Bietz will contact the Audubon Society of Rhode Island for guided foraging/edible plant information. RCC focused on a guided walk at the state-owned DeCoppett lands.

**September** - Fall mushroom guided walk to be targeted.

### **New Plans and Submittals**

None

### **Other Business**

Land and Water Summit 2023. A half-day event is scheduled for April 8 at URI.

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **February 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears, to adjourn meeting at 8:36 pm.

**Motion passed.**

Submitted by: Dinalyn Spears

Approved: Jim Turek

