



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island



Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 7:07 pm

Roll Call

Present: Lesley Bietz, Joe McCue, Dinalyn Spears, Jim Turek

Absent: Mary Doo, David Johnson, Nichole Phelps

Guests: Sandy Chartier (schartier@woodmanseeins.com), Chariho Centennial Lion's Club – inquiring about potential participation in the Earth Day event; and Dr. Peter Paton – scheduled presentation on the proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers designation for the Pawcatuck River

Approval of Minutes

Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Dinalyn Spears to accept the January 17, 2018 meeting minutes with minor edits. Motion passed.

Communications:

1. RCC was contacted by Emily Koo, RIDEM Public Access Program Coordinator, Division of Planning and Development on 1/12. She is in charge of the N/S Trail extensions, and spoke with Juliana Berry regarding the extension of the off-road portion of the N/S Trail that could extend from the Richmond Heritage Trail. Jim Turek spoke to her and recommended she prepare information on property boundaries off Carolina Nooseneck Road in the vicinity of where it may be feasible for the trail to cross Meadow Brook swamp/fen. Turek suggested a map be developed with an overlay of Google Earth with wetland and stream mapping to consider various alternative alignments for a trail and boardwalk crossing of the wetland/fen. Ms. Koo will contact Ms. Berry and set a meeting up with all parties. Ms. Koo indicated she would like to attend one of the upcoming RCC meetings to discuss the long-term plans for the N/S Trail rerouting.
2. Materials were forwarded by Juliana Berry: two project proposals – Minor Subdivision: four lot, Dalzell Hill Minor Subdivision located off Beaver River Road – focus is on reconfiguring of two lots. Joe McCue will review. Planning Board Actions – 14,544 sf indoor horticulture facility – 1.14 acres with location of 66 Kingstown Road and 5-acre parcel. Lesley Bietz will review this application.
3. Juliana Berry also provided email response on: status of Town's Comprehensive Plan and proposed drainage improvements associated with K G Ranch Road storm water.
4. On 1/29, Turek was contacted via phone call by Mr. Richard Jurzyk, 5 Heaton Orchard Road. He is concerned over flooding of his property, his neighbor's property, and Heaton Orchard Road during recent storm events, and believes the flooding is attributed to the new Harvest Farm solar farm to the west of his property. Mr. Jurzyk is seeking assistance from the Town. He presented photos of the flooding conditions to Turek on 1/31. It appears drainage conditions may have been substantially altered

by the solar farm development. The RCC submitted a subsequent memorandum to Karen Pinch and other town staff to request further coordination with and assistance to Mr. Jurzyk.

Treasurer's Report

RCC FY18 budget: \$1,369.43 remaining. The proposed FY19 budget total is: \$3,890. For the FY19 request, the RCC added a \$2,000 request for ongoing habitat restoration at the Heritage Trail property and \$1,890 for the RCC budget. RCC agreed to provide funds from our dues account for the RI Natural History Survey annual membership and the Enviro-thon.

Land Water Summit, 3/11. Registrations still need to be completed and funds allocated.

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail – Continued from January 17, 2018

Jim Turek submitted request for payment of the Change Order #2 and final payment to the contractor. Payment request was submitted to the Town Treasurer in January with a formal request to the Town Council to approve payment of \$5,873.08 to Sumco. Jim Turek will follow up with Scott Barber regarding the completion of the west end of the Trail with a goal to complete by mid April.

02 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – Continued from January 17, 2018

No updates

03 RCC Public Outreach Planning for 2018 – continued from January 17, 2018

No updates

04 Earth Day Planning/World Fish Migration Day Planning 2018 – continued from January 17, 2018

Date of the Event: April 21 with rain date of April 22 at the new Richmond Heritage Trail; tentative: 9-12 noon; then World Fish Migration Day celebration in Shannock in the afternoon. Tents/tables set up for participants to increase awareness of the Heritage Trail. Goal/Responsibilities: Teach others about the ecology and land conservation in Richmond, and help to sustain the quality of the town's natural resources. Town-wide clean up of properties and roads – trash and recyclables. Kits will be prepared by David Johnson for recyclables and trash. Lion's Club may participate. RCC seeks to increase awareness and have as many people as possible to visit both events. Emma Lumberg – URI PhD student talk on telemetry, Bret Still agreed to present at the Shannock event. RCC discussed food vendors – Lesley to check into alternatives. Bee Man – Lesley to contact the RI Bee Association. Grist Mill – Paul Drum III. – Lesley; Compost; Worm Ladies, Rain Barrel Lady, Maxx Man; open Bell School House Dell Lemonade – Possibly the farmer's market vendors, Maggie's Pantry – Dog Park folks, Audubon Society – Jeff Hall, Richmond Grange – Patty Cotrell; Rhody Fresh, The Nature Conservancy; RI DEM, Mary Grandy – Outreach Coordinator – goes to school groups – wildlife specimens display. Possible trail hike led by RCC. Also consider presentation from the Mushroom experts.

RCC discussed strategies for individuals and families to attend both events – offer an incentive to attend both events.

Dinalyn updated that she has reached out to Scott Barber and awaiting his response regarding the Styrofoam collection and she also spoke to Cassius Spears, Sr. regarding presentation on cultural fishing practices relevant to the Shannock site.

05 Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Photo Contest – continued from January 17, 2018

No updates

06 Solar Farm Projects and Proposed Ordinance Revisions – Continued from January 17, 2018

Harvest Solar Farms: RCC discussed the number of solar farms being constructed/under construction in town. Discussion topic: What are the advantages and disadvantages of solar farms and is the Town fully considering each in re-zoning property types?

07 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from January 17, 2018

Mary Doo will post the Earth Day Event and World Fishing Day save-the-date and forthcoming flyer.

08 Town Tree and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from January 17, 2018

No Updates

09 Town Recycling – continued from January 17, 2018

Lesley Bietz reported on the 2017 Eco-Depot Event in October 2017 outcome: 260 cars delivered 11,000 lbs of hazardous waste, 9,000 lbs paint, 35 lbs of medical needles, 21 lbs of mercury. The next event is scheduled for October 2018. Other dropped-off items were flammable substances used for electricity, paint, recycled containers, and pesticides diluted with water. In general, the state program costs \$10,000 for each one-day event.

10 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from January 17, 2018

Jim Turek received a response from Juliana Berry that there will be a meeting held by the Town Council in March to discuss the stormwater project.

11 Comprehensive Plan Update – continued from January 17, 2018

RCC submitted comments on January 18th. Solar farms information was added, as well as comments on how does solar farm development relate to or contradict other goals of the plan. Next steps: Planning Board will review RCC comments at their next meeting.

12 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from January 17, 2018

No updates

New Plans and Submittals: Please see new plans under communications, above.

Other Business: 7:45 pm - Presentation by Dr. Peter Paton on Pawcatuck River for Nominated Designation as Wild and Scenic River. RCC received a handout and Frequently Asked Questions. Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Group; an Act of Congress is needed to secure designation. Eight Rivers in New England are currently designated. Twelve towns in the watershed which includes RI/CT, as well as agency partners. 2016/2017 study committee and NPS are developing a stewardship plan and oversight by Denise Poyer. 2018 – each town will be asked to pass a resolution supporting designation and adopting the stewardship plan. Stewardship Plan is tentatively scheduled for completion by end of March. A question was asked, what can the residents of the Town do? Send letter of support letting your Congressmen and local town officials know that we support the Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. For a letter of support template, visit the website: <http://WPWildRivers.org>. There may be concern that property owners/residents are going to ask How will it benefit me and my family? Do leaders foresee any misconceptions? Is there anything in the Stewardship Plan for cleaning up lands? RCC will have information available for the Earth Day Event. Are there any regulatory restrictions for a homeowner if they live on the river – none, maybe recommendations for stewardship practices? State of Rhode Island has the overall jurisdiction over the Wild and Scenic River program. What portion of the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed will be included as part of the designation?

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: Dinalyn Spears motioned seconded by Jim Turek to adjourn meeting at 9:17 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by: Dinalyn Spears

Approved: 

Attest: 