



# Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

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



**Call to Order:** 7: 09 pm

## **Roll Call**

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

**Absent:** David Johnson, Nichole Phelps (Note, Nichole has moved to CT and resigned from RCC)

## **Approval of Minutes**

**Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to accept the February 14, 2018 meeting minutes with multiple edits. Motion passed.**

## **Communications:**

RCC received letter from the RI Natural History Survey with second notice for membership renewal.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Operating Expenses: \$100 dollars was expended for creation of plaque and sign cross-post for the Heritage Trail property road entrance. Jim Turek also purchased hardware hooks in the amount of \$25.23 to hang the plaque. Training workshop: \$2015 dollars was expended for three Commissioners' registration to attend the Land & Water Resources Summit. Total remaining budget balance: \$1,029.20

## **Old Business**

### **01 Richmond Heritage Trail – Continued from February 14, 2018**

Heritage Trail plaque has been completed. The stencil/router lettering still required. Jim Turek will call Sign-o-rama to obtain a quote and work on the engraving. Lesley Bietz walked the trail last week and cleanup of the trail is required from the recent storm events, many trees and branches are down. Joe McCue received “mini” milkweed seed package from the Boy Scout Troop Leader. Joe McCue gave Mary Hutchinson the GIS data to make an electronic file map of the Heritage Trail property and trails, consistent with town maps of other preserves.

### **02 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – Continued from February 14, 2018**

See Earth Day Event

### **03 RCC Public Outreach Planning for 2018 – continued from February 14, 2018**

Mary Doo will upload a “save-the-date” and event flyer to the RCC web site. Also see Earth Day Event

### **04 Earth Day Planning/WFMDay Planning 2018 – continued from February 14, 2018**

RCC discussed proposed activities and public outreach. Dinalyn Spears indicated this year’s national Earth Day focus is "End Plastic Pollution". The RCC should include as a focus of our town event. Lesley Bietz showed an example from the Boston Paper stating “Bee Sensible”. RCC might think about developing a slogan and use similar letter.

#### **Lesley Bietz:**

- \* Contacted Mr. Drumm at the Grist Mill, who will post the Earth Day flyer in store and on his FB page.
- \* Contacted the Bee Association but received no reply.
- \* Left message with the Worm Ladies.
- \* Contacted Rain Barrel contact who did not commit.
- \* Styrofoam collection - Dinalyn Spears will assist in determine the best way to collect the material for transport. A call will be made to RIRRC.
- \* Prepare recycling kits with David Johnson. Will also inventory supplies and what will be required to create the kits. Need 50-75+ kits.
- \*Transfer Station: electronics collection - will visit the transfer station to secure accurate information on recyclable items; and work with Dinalyn Spears on the development of a handout that lists the items collected for recycling and what is not accepted.
- \*Check into mobile food trucks

#### **Mary Doo:**

- \*Contact representative for Master Gardener for potential soil testing booth
- \*Contact representative regarding obtaining Pollinator Kit from Master Gardener and contact NRCS regarding pollinator posters

#### **Joe McCue:**

- \*Contact the Boy Scouts on possible demonstration of reducing plastic waste based on Earth Day Theme "End Plastic Pollution".
- \*Help in trail cleanup before the Earth Day event

#### **Dinalyn Spears:**

- \*Contact RIRCC to inquire if they would like to set up a table with information on proper recycling methods
- \* Styrofoam collection - Dinalyn Spears will help to determine the best way to collect the material for transport. A call will be made to RIRRC regarding their participation and potential Styrofoam recycling topic.
- \*Transfer Station: coordinate with Lesely Bietz on accepted electronics items for recycling

#### **Jim Turek:**

- \*Contact Lions Club
- \*Contact Wildlife Rehabilitators - John Maxon
- \*Contact Wood Pawcatuck Association

- \*Contact Forever Amigos - 4H
- \*Check into mobile food trucks

**World Fish Day at the Shannock Falls:** Jim Turek indicated student, Emma Linburg from URI will present on fish telemetry. He will also contact Phil Edwards, state biologist in charge of the fish passage for RIDEM. RCC discussed the best location for the event. RCC had discussion on whether to hold event near the large parking area by upper falls dam, or at Knowles Mill Park. The Upper Falls fishway is along the main road with potential pedestrian safety issues with vehicular traffic. The second place is lower falls near the town park on Railroad Street. Parking in this area is limited but better safety on quiet side road. We will need to determine the better location for the event. RCC discussed having a mobile food truck on site for food. Dinalyn Spears confirmed Cassius Spears, Sr., with presentation on the value to migratory fishes on tribal culture.

**05 Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Photo Contest – continued from February 14, 2018**

Mary Doo will followup with Denise Poyer regarding the photo contest.

**06 Solar Farm Projects and Proposed Ordinance Revisions – Continued from February 14, 2018**

Two articles were recently published in the Wood River Press with topic of developer of the Harvest Farm solar farm and need to address the stormwater runoff problem. The developer is to meet with Mr. Jurzyk regarding the flooding issue. RIDEM is also expected to visit the site.

**07 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from February 14, 2018**

Crawley Preserve map is updated and the interpretive map has not been updated. Copies will be made for Earth Day Event.

**08 Town Tree and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from February 14, 2018**

The Town experienced substantial tree damage from the last three storm events. Town DPW has heavy workload.

**09 Town Recycling – continued from February 14, 2018**

Lesley Bietz gave an update that the recycling banner, “Recycling make dollars and cents”, placed at the town transfer station blew away during the rain/wind storm two weeks ago. Joe McCue stated in regards to the Earth Day event and electronics disposal, RCC should describe in our event brochure as what items are acceptable for recycling versus waste disposal.

**10 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from February 14, 2018**

Jim Turek spoke with Karen Pinch who indicated that Town needs to develop a scope of services (SOS) for Crossman Engineering design. Jim Turek will follow up with Julianna Berry regarding the SOS, and whether the RCC can assist.

**11 Comprehensive Plan- continued from February 14, 2018**

Jim Turek will follow up with Julianna Berry on the status of the Comprehensive Plan update.

**12 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from February 14, 2018**

No updates

**New Plans and Submittals:**

**Other Business:** Update by Commissioners who attended Land & Water Resources Summit. Lesley Bietz and Mary Doo presented highlights. The conference was very informative this year, high quality speakers and very well run, more organized. Conference ran on green energy! By 2019 every municipality in R.I. must have solar and wind ordinance. Lesley Bietz attended the Solar Energy workshop. The presenter was aware of the project at John & Cindy’s. Steel Tariff will impact the solar projects, and thus will affect the pricing. Spoke about the bees - cultivating bee boxes in the solar fields. Substations and feeder line facilities need to be close to these areas. Governor has incentive for solar panels in RI. Overall, there was a general consensus to install and build solar panels in open parking lots, areas that have already been cleared and zoned for business.

RIACC: seeking to increase membership and assistance and having difficulty maintaining a quorum. Overall, conservation commissions indicated that they would participate if RIACC was more organized. RIACC asked for a vote to disband RIACC. Vote was taken and will communicate to all the commissioners throughout the State for participation. RIACC will send an email to all Conservation Commissions for followup.

Climate: Some of the populous still does not believe in climate change and fracking does not impact natural resources. How can we better communicate to find a common ground on caring for the environment by focusing on areas of mutual agreement? Communicate in a way that everyone understands, i.e., climate change – instead discuss how carbon affects the ozone layer. Master Gardener Director’s presentation addressed the importance of pollinator garden. This year, Master Gardeners will be selling a pollinator garden kit available May 5. RCC asked Mary Doo if we can obtain pollinator kit. Mary Doo will secure information from the Master Gardener Program. The session also showcased a rain garden including pollinators. In the trail-making presentation, results focused on the importance of involving your community.

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** Jim Turek motioned seconded by Dinalyn Spears. by to adjourn meeting at 9:20 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: