



Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Meeting Minutes



Call to Order: 7:15 pm

Roll Call

Present: Lesley Bietz, Mary Doo, David Johnson, Joe McCue

Absent: Dinalyn Spears, Jim Turek

Approval of Minutes

Joe McCue motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to accept the April 11, 2018 meeting minutes with minor edits. Motion passed.

Communications:

None

Treasurer's Report

RCC budget balance is \$377.40. Bee Association reps received a minor donation for participation in the Earth Day event. Remaining budget spending was discussed; ideas included a tent canopy or extra plantings for the Heritage Park / Pollinator garden at Town Hall. RCC will discuss and finalize at the June meeting.

Old Business

01 Richmond Heritage Trail – Continued from April 11, 2018

The sugar maple tree was planted, and Mary will go and evaluate soils, and likely add some enriched soil/compost. Lesley will water the tree as needed over the summer. The Heritage Trail map which has been formatted with the other town parks and preserves trail maps, was produced for the Earth Day event and is now available on the RCC website.

02 Earth Day Planning/World Fish Migration Day 2018 – continued from April 11, 2018

Our overall Commission thoughts on this past Earth Day were as follows: the turnout of the events, with all the work and advertising by RCC, was not satisfactory. Some possible reasons were analyzed, including the location being set off the road and not readily visible to the public; possible limited interest by the public on environmental issues in general; competition with youth and high school sports, and other events; and it was one of the first really nice days of the year where the public likely prioritized other personal agendas. We

agreed that next year having kits available at the town hall during business hours for a week in April would save money and time. Kits and sign-up sheets for interested parties would focus just on cleaning up the litter – the RCC could be ‘ambassadors’ the day of the event – checking on crews picking up litter, and managing other tasks. The crowd at the fish passage was better but still had a limited turnout. David Johnson thought that getting youth and other folks involved in walking the different trails and preserves in town and awarding a merit patch could help spark interest. It was generally noted that the RCC Earth Day event needs to be thoroughly re-evaluated next year. A final note was that one of the best turnouts and successful Earth Day events was done in conjunction with the Farmers’ Market later in the season; it was discussed that our chances of best success must be to join with other town events, such as the Farmers’ Market.

03 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves – Continued from April 11, 2018

Joe McCue mentioned that anytime now through October is the time to address the autumn olive invasive species control at Beaver River Preserve. He has materials left over from the last year’s application and hopes to do this treatment in June or July. McCue will send out email to all for scheduling a work event.

04 RCC Public Outreach Planning for 2018 – continued from April 11, 2018

RCC felt the Lions Club would be a good resource to tap into as they were strong participants on Earth Day. Also having speakers on topics that would be exciting and tie in history, but that must also tie in conservation, might be worthwhile, such as shipwrecks of RI, one-room school houses, and other interesting topics. All topics would be towards the goal of preserving our town environment and history. One potential slogan or theme could be “We Care”.

05 Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Photo Contest – continued from April 11, 2018

No updates

06 Solar Farm Projects and Proposed Ordinance Revisions – Continued from April 11, 2018

This is a topic that is in the forefront for our town with discussion to include zoning requirements.

07 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from April 11, 2018

Mary Doo will upload Earth Day photos to our RCC web site.

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

No updates

09 Town Recycling – continued from April 11, 2018

RCC discussed how large the enhanced recycling event in Narragansett was. Eco-Depot in Richmond will be October 2018.

10 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from April 11, 2018

No updates

11 Comprehensive Plan- continued from April 11, 2018

No updates

12 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from April 11, 2018

No updates

New Plans and Submittals: None

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 7 p.m.**

Adjourn: Joe McCue motioned, seconded by David Johnson to adjourn meeting at 8:55 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: