



# Town of Richmond, Rhode Island

Richmond Conservation Commission  
Richmond Town Hall, Wyoming, RI 02898  
Wednesday, July 11, 2018  
Meeting Minutes



**Call to Order:** 7:15 pm

## **Roll Call**

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

## **Approval of Minutes**

Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to approve the June 20 meeting minutes with minor revisions. Motion passed.

## **Communications**

Steve Fuller from SUMCO contacted Jim Turek regarding final payment for the Heritage Trail. Turek explained that the RCC had signed off on the final payment months ago, but obviously, the Town payment had not been made. Turek will follow up with Town Administrator Pinch and Town Finance Director Kelli Russ.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The RCC FY19 approved budget is \$3,890. Need to check on Heritage Trail budget for 02 22 5477. Turek will check with Kelli Russ on final expenditures in FY18.

## **Old Business**

### **01 Richmond Heritage Trail - Continued from June 20, 2018**

Lesley Bietz and Mary Doo are periodically watering the recent maple planting during the dry-season period. Jim Turek will speak with Scott Barber about setting up the hose and sprinkler system, connecting to the hydrant near the trail entrance.

### **02 Richmond Town Parks and Preserves - continued from June 20, 2018**

Joe McCue will conduct invasive plant work at Beaver River Park, sometime late this summer. McCue will notify others on RCC in advance to help out. The pet waste station is filled; needs cleaning.

**03 RCC Public Outreach Planning for 2018 – continued from June 20, 2018**

RCC discussed the potential for leading a solar farm assessment workshop. Jim Turek indicated that he will contact EcoRI News about efforts that may already be planned.

**04 Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed – continued from June 20, 2018**

RCC submitted support letter to Town Council to support the designation of the Pawcatuck and Wood Rivers and tributaries as a federally-designated Wild and Scenic River System.

**05 Solar Farm Projects and Proposed Ordinance Revisions – Continued from June 20, 2018**

RCC discussed need for public informational meeting and we need to complete research for expert(s) to present and discuss issues in a potential public forum. Jim Turek will contact EcoRI News on this topic.

Joe McCue initiated GIS exercise to determine the amount of forested cover in Richmond to compare with tree loss from approved or pending solar farms.

At July 10 Planning Board meeting, a solar array at the Billy Hill's restaurant property was discussed. The Planning Board was concerned over the lack of adequate funding for the eventual decommissioning of the solar farm. The Planning Board also required a minimum of 25-foot wide setback of the road-T from the existing vernal pool. Seeding of pollinator plants was also requested. The Planning Board also highlighted that adequate sediment and erosion control design and implementation are needed, based on recent experience of constructed solar arrays in Richmond.

**06 RCC Web and Blog Sites – continued from June 20, 2018**

Mary Doo will update the Web and Blog sites in early August.

**07 Town Tree and Tree Ordinance Issues – continued from June 20, 2018**

RCC noted the potential value of URI students who could help the Town with a town-wide large tree inventory and assessment.

**09 Town Recycling – continued from June 20, 2018**

Lesley Bietz requested the RCC to further consider support for a plastic bag ban in Richmond.

**10 KG Ranch Road/Valley Lodge Stormwater – continued from June 20, 2018**

Jim Turek will seek update from Julianna Berry on the status of the work services proposal.

**11 Comprehensive Plan- continued from June 20, 2018**

Jim Turek will seek update from Julianna Berry on the status of the consultant contract for completing the plan update.

**12 Camelot Estates Fishway – continued from June 20, 2018**

No updates

**New Plans and Submittals:** The Preserve at Boulder Hills, Phase 2; Joe McCue will check with Paul Jordan at RIDEM about the Natural Heritage species designated for the property. The Planning Board has scheduled the next meeting for August 14 to discuss the project.

**Other Business:** None

**Next Meeting:** The next RCC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 7 p.m.**

**Adjourn:** **Jim Turek motioned, seconded by Lesley Bietz to adjourn meeting at 8:55 pm. Motion passed.**

Submitted by:



Approved:



Attest: