

**Richmond Conservation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes for 13 January 2015  
Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge Street

**Attending:** Ernie Buford, chair; Alison Anand, Rick Barrett, Bob Low, Judy Rosovsky, Andy Solomon and Elizabeth Wright.

**Guests:** Brad Elliott

**1) Approval of minutes:** The Commission approved minutes from the Dec 9, 2014 meeting.

**2) Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF) renewal:** There will be an informational public meeting held on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Free Library at 7 p.m. A discussion of publicity logistics followed. What other actions do we need to take in regard to the meeting and vote? There is a flyer from the previous vote; can we ask the town to mail it out, and can we have it posted on the town RCC website? Will the town pay the cost of distributing the flyer? Can we post a FAQ on the website? **JR** agreed to contact Geoff Urbanik and ask.

Committee members agreed to make an effort to solicit and post on Front Porch Forum (FPF) endorsements of the CRF from appropriate parties (i.e. recipients and beneficiaries of CRF funds).

**Brad Elliot** agreed to contact the Times Inc. with a letter or other material on the CRF. There is a due date of Feb 6<sup>th</sup> for the Feb 21<sup>st</sup> issue. It could include a URL for the CRF FAQ, if they are posted.

**3) Gateway development:** Information pertaining to the proposed gateway zoning revision was discussed. The town planner is embarking on a 1.5 year effort to update the town plan, but it is not likely that this will delay action on gateway development. If the roads are dug up it might provide an opportunity to bury the power lines.

**4) Upcoming Sue Morse Talk:** The talk on climate change and northern mammals is scheduled for Tuesday Feb 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Richmond Free Library. Sponsors so far are the Richmond and Bolton Conservation Commissions, The Richmond Climate Action Committee and Alison Anand at \$50 each. If the town contributes \$50 from the education fund, the cost of the talk will be covered. Sue Morse agreed to waive her travel fees.

Potential additional sponsors were considered, and the possibility of charging admission, but it was not clear where the extra funds would go (to the town, to the RCC, back to the sponsors?). The Morse team would like food provided, so possible food donors were discussed. **Elizabeth Wright** agreed to make some calls to find a pizza donor. Possible additional sponsors might be Suncommon, Rainforest Alliance, Green Sea Systems.

Publicity: Sue Morse would like to use her High Meadows grant that stipulates outreach to non-traditional audiences, i.e. the hunting and fishing community and business leaders. **JR** will contact Mitch at the Chittenden Fish and Game Club and will use her state Fish & Wildlife contacts to advertise in those areas. If we send the librarian a pdf of the poster they can send it to other libraries,

and Rebecca may know good ways to contact non-traditional folks too. If we put something in Times Ink it should list the sponsors.

**4) The Future:** If the RCC receives an application regarding the brick façade on Bridge St, we should address our concerns when that application is made. These would include ensuring that the bricks remain and are not painted.

Membership turnover – We anticipate needing 1 new member and would like someone with institutional memory. Four of the current 7 RCC commissioners have 1 year or less experience.

Science to Action –Review town plan; see what other towns are doing; identify our own priorities, such as connectivity. Contact Arrowwood for suggestions, too.

Other goals - Increase documentation of projects. Green up day is coming up, will RCC lead again? Having input into the revision of the town plan is important.