

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT

MINUTES OF MEETING February 9, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge St.

Attendees: Jacob Davignon, Judy Rosovsky, Bob Low, Jon Kart, Elizabeth Wright, Alison Anand

7:40 Looked at zoning map and discussed the following:

RCC should look into the landowners of large, forested tracts of land. Bob said he has easy access to this data through his GIS database.

What should be the acre size cutoff for this search?

Identifying large tracts with valuable biodiversity should be the main focus.

Current ecological inventory is probably missing some components, vernal pools, etc.

There is not a complete survey. Boots on the ground secondary inventory may be required, site visits will be key.

7:45 December meeting minutes approval postponed until March meeting.

7:47 January meeting minutes approved

7:50 Gillette Pond 90% repair/replacement plan estimated at \$500-600k for complete project. Proposal being brought to Richmond Land Trust for review.

8:00 Onion River race Sunday June 5th. Should we staff a table, work with group, collaborate with RLT, VLT? Friends of Winooski River are a sponsor of the race. Perhaps we could market our river cleanup day in September. Invasive species, fern health, and river cleanup could be the focus of a table at the event. Table setup would make most sense from 12:00-2:30PM. Value of RLT land, trails, etc.

8:05 January rapid fire meeting recap, January 20th had attendance from RCC, no one could attend on February 3rd.

January 20th meeting – UVM lands crew identified barns, perhaps a bike tour is a good idea? Bob suggest Jane Dorney for help with barn tour. Judy will reach out to the rec department and get back to us. There was some concern from an attendee that RCC had extra input. Clare Rock supported RCC's input and pointed out that all town entities received the same invitation and had the same opportunity to provide input.

8:10 Jon Kart spoke about Richmond Town's invasive species plan. He asked if RCC would like to endorse updating the plan for the flood plain areas? Yes, the RCC agreed to do so. Richmond is home to very pristine and rare habitat types along the Winooski, perhaps 1% of this land type is left in the state. Invasive plant levels are lower than 8-10 years ago. Current plan is for 2010-2015. Inventory records should be renewed to better understand invasive levels at different points along the river. There were 1500+ hours of volunteer time contributed to help remove invasive species. Levels are much, much lower and overall levels are good. The time for a renewed removal effort is here, best to act now to avoid unmanageable levels in a few years.

Jon Kart would like to volunteer to help with plan revisions. Elizabeth Spinney is another volunteer that can assist. Another on-site survey would be ideal to compare 2008 vs 2016 surveys for better documentation. FOCUS IS THE RIVER BED AREAS, not the entire town landscape. Best time for a survey is June. Perhaps we can table at Onion River race for volunteers for a survey? Inventory would require ~30 people.

At this point it does not appear that funds would be needed. RCC agreed to support this venture.
MOTION APPROVED

8:35 Photo contest: Elizabeth will draft a proposal, still under development. Aim is to highlight Richmond's natural beauty and wild lands, and to encourage people to take photos and submit them for website, exhibit: town hall, library, Simone's, etc. Categories: water, barns, working lands, wild lands, forests, wildlife, recreation, historic structures. Seasonal themes as well. To be re-visited during March meeting.

8:45 Town Plan next steps – someone is needed to write down the objectives for the plan. Alison suggested a group approach within the RCC. Final piece needs to be submitted to Clare Rock. WHAT SHOULD THE LAND USE MAP CONTAIN, WHAT TYPES OF ZONING?

- Remove 1 acre zoning? Replace with variable lot size?

Everyone to submit list to Bob that states WHAT DO YOU WANT TO PROTECT IN RICHMOND? WE NEED A PRIORITY LIST. Conservation, sound economic planning, and a good place to live.

Feb 17th is transportation meeting

March 2nd transparent decision meeting.

What percentage of Richmond land is eligible for development?

9:25 Meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by: Jacob Davignon