

Richmond Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT) for November 11, 2014
Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge Street

Attended by: Ernie Buford (Chair) Alison Anand (minutes), Rick Barrett, Bob Low, Judy Rosovsky, Andy Solomon, Elizabeth Wright

1. **New members:** Elizabeth Wright and Andy Solomon were welcomed to the Conservation Commission.
2. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes from the October meeting were approved as amended.
3. **Conservation Reserve Fund renewal:** There was discussion and planning for the upcoming renewal of the Conservation Reserve Fund. Bob Low has prepared a presentation about the purpose of the Fund and the various projects to which it has contributed in the last several years. He also made some informational flyers. Board members agreed to publish information in the community and on Front Porch Forum. The renewal will come up for vote on Town Meeting Day, March 2015. The Commission agreed to accept the ballot as written.
4. **Gillett Pond:** Discussion of Conservation Commission response to a request for comment on a permit application to remove the Gillett Pond dam. The Girl Scouts want to remove the dam due to concerns about liability and safety. The dam is in need of much repair. However, the loss of the dam would mean loss of Gillett Pond, which is an important ecological, recreational, and scenic resource for the community. The Selectboard has submitted a letter in favor of allowing more time for negotiations to proceed, and Buford sent notice that the Conservation Commission would like to comment on the permit application. Rick Barrett made a motion, seconded by Judy Rosovsky as follows:
 - “The Conservation Commission will write a letter (or e-mail) to Steve Hanna, Facilities Engineer of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, who is receiving comments about the permit application to remove the dam at Gillett Pond. We wish to go on record as objecting to the removal of the dam without repair. This Commission considers Gillett Pond a valuable resource.”
 - The motion passed: 6 in favor and one recusal.
5. **Gateway zoning:** On Nov. 12, there will be a public hearing for the new proposed zoning change pertaining to the area known as “The Gateway”, along US Rte. 2, entering Richmond village from the Interstate interchange. Members expressed concern for the agricultural land on the south side of Rte. 2, increased traffic issues, the need for a bike path, the effects of commercial development, and water and sewer considerations. It was agreed that a few members would attend the meeting.
6. **Annual report:** Brief discussion of the annual report, which is due in early January. The chair will work on this report, as usual, with contributions from others as possible.

7. **Adjourned:** at 9:25