

Richmond Conservation Commission
Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2016
Submitted: Kristin Nelson

Present: Mary Houle, Bob Low, Kristin Nelson, Judy Rosovsky

Absent: Rick Barrett, Jake Davignon, Elizabeth Wright

Meeting began: 7:35 in Youth Lounge on lower level

Public Comment: None

Appoint Minute Taker: Kristin Nelson

Minutes from August meeting approved: RCC was reminded that minutes must be posted to Town website in timely fashion as that has not been done since Feb. 2016.

Updates:

- **CHMS stormwater walk** (Kristin): Jeff Forward (CESU facilities coordinator) and Ann Smith (Ex. Dir. Friends of Winooski River) want to partner with the Richmond Land Trust and RCC to obtain a grant to study stormwater mitigation for the CHMS and RE school property. Ann referred to the Town of Richmond Stormwater Infrastructure Mgmt. Plan (2009) where the school sites were targeted as having issues. Jeff, Ann, Kris, Brad Elliott (RLT) and Mark Adams (CHMS principle) walked around the property. The schools have had major rain events to deal with since 2009; erosion and mitigation efforts were evident in two major areas. Ann has had success with previous studies at other schools affecting the Winooski River. Ann has found that partnering, and having an educational element makes a stronger case in competing for grants. The goal would be to create inflow and outflow parameters of the study, have an educational component with the school, create blueprint plans addressing identified issues, and look for construction money to implement plans. Ann feels a State grant (Clean Water Initiative Fund) is best shot for a grant, most likely \$15-30,000 with a matching amount (from RCC?) or 'in kind'. Bob asked for clarification on who would be the recipient of the grant. Judy will contact Ann. Bob and Mary will review the grant proposal.
- **Gillett Pond** (Bob): Archeologists have not found anything yet. The next step is to publicize fundraising.
- **CRF Fund monies** (Judy): \$263,918.00 is in the fund.
- **Ethics Forms for new members** (Judy): These forms will be given to Mary Houle and Kristin Nelson to be signed and returned.

River Clean-Up: September is River Clean-Up Month. What does RCC want to do? Item tabled until Jake returns as he has dealt with this in the past.

Friends of Winooski River and E. coli on Huntington River: Bob commented that a study analysis has been done. Summer 2016 results suggest Hollow Brook in Huntington may include a point-of-source for *E. coli*, and outreach needs to be done. Ann Smith needs to be asked what specific help they are looking for, with Aaron Worthy being the River go-to person.

Natural and Working Lands map draft and questionnaire: Clare wants feedback if any by planning meeting on the 21st. Judy will send the map to all and we can individually respond.

Andrews Farm meeting: VLT is assisting the Andrews family in finding a way to sell the land while conserving it for public use. These meetings have been held to gain feedback from the community. Outreach will continue. The value of the land (428 acres) is \$550,000, but the family is willing to sell for \$450,00 if the land can be conserved and kept open for public use. Ideas were put forth with most of the discussion around whether the Town of Richmond would have interest in purchasing it. Liability, parking and responsibility were topics raised to discuss.

A request for assistance from RCC may come in, but until it is known who will be the owner, it is watchful waiting. In the meantime it was agreed that the Andrews Farm land be a) conserved, b) with public access, c) with adequate parking arrangements and d) mixed/working land use needs determined. It was agreed that RCC would not own or manage the land, but recognizes the importance of this land to Richmond's rural character. It was suggested to send a note to Bob Heiser. A suggestion was made to contact Jim McCullough regarding how the Catamount Family Center is managed, as a model for discussion. Discussions are expected to continue at next CC meeting.

Positions on wind and solar projects for potential permitting and regional planning: It was noted that CCRPC has moved the deadline date for comments/constraints to be submitted by November 1, 2016. Bob re-stated that Bryant Hill should not be used, and his letter and maps were approved to send to CCRPC.

Matters arising: Richmond Elementary teacher, Maribeth Berliner teaches 4th grade and asked her students to say what their favorite things or places in Richmond are. She wanted to send them to us so they would have an actual application for their work. Judy will forward the video to us.

Motion to Adjourn approved: approximately 8:30pm