

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
For Tuesday May 8, 2018  
Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge Street 7:30pm

Attendance: Judy Rosovsky, Mary Houle, Jimmy Cochran, Jack Linn, Elizabeth Wright, Guy Roberts, Kristin Nelson. Bob and Rick were unable to attend.  
No guests tonight.

Kristin Nelson appointed minutes taker. February minutes amended and approved.

**Town Plan Update:** talks were bogged down on 'Future Land Use' – they will be meeting again this Wednesday. Time is of the essence as there currently is no Town Plan and the new Town Plan must be ready to be voted on at the next Town Meeting in November.

**Richmond Town Forest at Andrews Farm Update:**

Guy reported that Hannah has taken the reins. The SE Group has given scope of the project and has asked for a lot of info from the working groups within the Steering Committee. Also a stakeholder list is being made for those under represented in this process in order to make more connections and to organize a hike into the Forest.

Jimmy asked about the involvement of the Andrews family moving forward as there is some mention in the conservation easement. The answer was unclear as most communication has been between Bob Heiser with the VLT and the Andrews family.

The role of the Interim Steering Committee has initially been one of making recommendations towards the management plan. Plans to transition to a decision making group (or Town Forest Stewardship Committee?) have not been made yet. The goal is for a sort and concise management plan with an emphasis on wildlife habitat. Conservation is the over arching theme for the Forest so should not be included as a separate activity category.

It was suggested in the February minutes that an inventory of trails in Richmond be made to help facilitate trail-making decision in the new Town Forest. Jimmy is currently working on a spreadsheet for trails that would inform trail users of which trails were open or closed at any given time. Jimmy and Kristin will bring up trail inventory at the next Richmond Conservation Coalition Group (not an official name yet) as they look at where the various member groups overlap. Also recommended was including a member of the Steering Committee with the RCCG.

Hannah is looking to take the RCC members on a hike through the Forest.

**Huntington Gorge Update:** Kristin reported that Lou Borie had written an article in the May issue of The Times Ink article; Gorge Purchase: Protection and Safety. Lou said as an update that the Richmond Land Trust is trying to raise the last \$15,000 needed to purchase the Gorge property, and that any suggestions on that would be welcome. Jack said he had once owned the property and had pictures and an old copy of the hydro study done for the Gorge – a bit of history. He also said there are

water swirlways under the surface and Lars Gange, a scuba diver, would like to map them.

**Forestry Panel:** Jack Linn proposed the idea of a “forestry panel” to get a group together to discuss where we are in Vermont regarding the logging industry. How can people better understand the crises of working lands, which are not really “working lands” anymore? Is new legislation needed to sustain working forests? Guy noted that forests peaked at 80% and are now down to 70% (an alert from VLT). Jack asked for suggestions for panel representations (legislature, Jens Hilke, Ethan Tapper . . .) – he will contact them and set a date – Jimmy suggested meeting at Cochran ski lodge. Inform, educate – what does it take to create economical working lands?

**EAB Preparedness Planning:** Judy reported that the Emerald Ashborer is officially in Vermont – a 5x5 square mile near North Orange. A state wide quarantine rather than 3 county. Forest and Parks making recommendations for best practices. All logs going to China have to be fumigated – Ash market tanked because fumigation center in PA (?). Hope to suppress enough to allow survivors to mast and keep some going. Keep eye out for resistant trees. 32<sup>nd</sup> state to get it. Combine efforts – municipal management plan for town – RCC peruse plan and see if we want Richmond to be on the lead.

**No other matter arose.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm**