

# **RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020 – 7:30 pm – minutes**

**Present:** Max Krieger, Caitlin Littlefield, Judy Rosovsky (chair), Ibit Wright, Jack Linn, Bob Low (6)

**Public:** n/a

**Appointed minute taker:** Caitlin L.

## **Business**

- 1) Review and approve August 2020 minutes at end of meeting
  - a. CL made motion to approve minutes as amended; approved per vote (5/0/0) [Bob not yet present for vote]  
Roll call: Max Krieger, Aye; Jack Linn, Aye; Caitlin Littlefield, Aye; Judy Rosovsky, Aye; Ibit Wright, Aye.

## **Jericho Conservation Commission BioBlitz**

- 1) Sept. 12-26 at Mobbs Farm Property
- 2) Participants use iNaturalist to catalog species
- 3) Mentioned here on RCC to increase awareness of this event
- 4) Might we do so at ACF?

## **Volunteers Green Boat Access**

- 1) Stairs are in, as are two large cement blocks for anglers
  - a. Original plan may have been for large flat rocks; cement blocks installed instead – hopefully we blend in over time.

## **CRF application by Volunteer's Green ad hoc committee**

- 1) \$200 request for tubes and stakes to protect TNC-donated
- 2) May we consider as appendix to prior approved proposal, as we need SB approval to see as full new proposal?  
Time is of the essence with trees arriving 9/14/2020, planting with CHMS students 9/21-22/20
- 3) Judy will ask Josh if he can provide “bridging funds” in advance of Selectboard approving this \$200.
- 4) BL makes motion to approve application; MK seconds; others vote unanimously to approve (6/0/0)  
Roll call: Max Krieger, Aye; Jack Linn, Aye; Caitlin Littlefield, Aye; Bob Low, Aye; Judy Rosovsky, Aye; Ibit Wright, Aye.  
[Note Jon Kart paid for supplies and will be reimbursed]

## **Trees on Johnnie Brook**

- 1) Greg Western updated RCC – had elected to *not* plant trees given heat of summer, but did add willow along streambed.
- 2) RCC may elect to plant more trees
- 3) JR will update RCC about walk with Josh and Greg to evaluate new culvert.
- 4) JL brings question of are we planting trees on private property or in ROW?
  - a. ~50ft defines width of public ROW; actual bed may meander therein

## **Lake Iroquois Recreation District**

- 1) Owns 220 acres; paths; Beebe Lane
- 2) Beebe Lane has flattened out with no ditches; needs major overhaul to ensure water won't run off trails, into road, and into Lake
  - a. \$229,000 likely cost for overhauling Beebe Lane
- 3) JL has discussed convening new committee that involves reps from each town (Hinesburg, Williston, Richmond) to inform sustainable future for recreation infrastructure
  - a. Trails committee members, conservation commission members

- 4) JL aims to expand awareness of Lake Iroquois and its amenities to Richmond residents; it's largely used only by Hinesburg and Williston
- 5) JL reports years ago dogs were not allowed to ensure poo doesn't get washed into lake; he posted signs; they were promptly removed; laments that it cannot be enforced.
- 6) JR expresses interest in rallying public more generally to be involved in RCC-related activities (e.g., as trail committee does)

#### **ACF trail mapping ideas**

- 1) JR brings up with update for trail development on ACF.
- 2) JR mentions NH webinar regarding trail development.
- 3) CL offers update that ACF committee is likely moving forward with collaborative effort between trail designer and ecologist to ensure that the Concept Map and trail implementation takes into consideration use for a variety of users as well as wildlife habitat and movement

#### **ACF Committee Representation**

- 1) Regarding ACF committee representation
  - a. The minutes from 10/23/18 say "Committee membership change noted: TC and RC appoint one member from their Committee and additionally each recommends one additional member."
  - b. The explanation from Hannah Phillips was that the RCC chooses one internal and one additional internal or external candidate.
  - c. The RCC agrees that means that we can make a choice of two from RCC or one from RCC one other.
  - d. Some key minutes from the TFSC are limited or not available

#### **Williams Hill Rd – Palmer Lane ROW**

- 1) Should the RCC be present at DRB meeting (Wed, 9/9/2020) to voice support for public access and ensuring public ROW remains as such and is not deemed a private driveway?
- 2) JL conveys that problem is twofold:
  - a. People try to drive into driveway of landowner at top of Williams Hill Rd. Aggressive signs aim to keep people out. He has personally pulled box trailers out of that driveway. Suggests that trail committee efforts to build trail earlier this year included trail committee members going onto private land
  - b. On Palmer Lane side, landowners are seeking re-designation because trying to sell-off 42 acres of larger lot. Three lots would require roadway standards (not just driveway)
- 3) IW appreciates opportunity to consider what we ought to do as a town to ensure public access.
- 4) CL expresses concern that, as current class 4 ROW, it may indeed be opened to, for example, ATVs or motorcycles. Poses questions: is it safer in the long-run to have this designated as pedestrian trail? Pressure to develop as trail will not go away.
- 5) JL expresses concern that largest landowner on William that it will impede animal movement and break up contiguous forest block. Would prefer to see this maintained as wild.
- 6) JR stated that this is not an RCC issue until someone submits an application.

#### **Matters Arising**

- 1) Outdoor classrooms – incl. one developed north of the elementary school. Ought to be used and model for future.
- 2) Jimmy Cochran – JR agreed to contact him to see if he wants to remain on the committee as he has been absent often.

#### **Adjourned at 9:05pm**

Respectfully submitted, Caitlin Littlefield