

# **RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – 7:30 pm – minutes**

**Present:** Max Krieger, Caitlin Littlefield, Judy Rosovsky (chair), Jack Linn, Bob Low (5)

**Public:** Greg Western

**Appointed minute taker:** Judy Rosovsky

## **Business**

- 1) Delay approval of September minutes and resend a copy to Jack.

## **Buckthorn Report and LIA**

- 1) Ethan Tapper information on buckthorn can be posted on FPF with directions to location to see it that Jack will mark. Jack can post his shorter piece on FPF, too. Other media suggestions were TimesInk!, Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions, Williston Whistle
- 2) Lake Iroquois Recreation District has trails, 4 vernal pools, spotted salamanders, and a nesting pair of loons for the 2<sup>nd</sup> years in a row.
- 3) The Procella permit for Eurasian watermilfoil treatment is still in process, pending a decision.
- 4) The Lake Iroquois Association took samples from 8 input streams on the lake.

## **Johnny Brook (JB) trail repairs**

- 1) The bridge at the JB end of the trail has been rebuilt and is beautiful. The boardwalk has been restored or replaced, as needed. Greg was there during a heavy rain and saw the trail flood and the culvert partially refill with sediment.  
There is a small ridge along the stream that is probably bulldozed material placed there as a dike or levy to block the stream meandering. It is now a source of sediment into the creek. The culvert was cleared out, but will refill during rainstorms.  
Either the Farris or the town will need to take on annual clearing of the creek and culvert, if they care to. The current structure built by Cross Vermont should last for a long time. Longer term solutions may include either annual dredging, building a bridge or trying a larger culvert.  
The bridge at the JB end has been rebuilt to allow water to flow under it during flooding events. The gabions may need some attention.
- 2) Discussion of above: the stream that goes under Huntington Rd by the Farris joins downstream of the JB trail culvert. The town cleans that 2<sup>nd</sup> culvert out. Both Farris and town pay contractors to clean out culverts.
- 3) Proposal to ask Selectboard to amend the original JB trail repair application to the Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF) to cover the increased costs of the project, which amounted to approximately \$960. These costs were due to the need to replace more or the boardwalk than originally thought (some was beyond repair), the increased price for wood due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for rocks to anchor the boardwalk and part of the stream channel.
- 4) Vote: Krieger, Aye; Linn, Aye; Littlefield, Aye; Low, Aye; Rosovsky, Aye. Vote passed unanimously.

## **Andrews Community Forest trail update**

- 1) New trail from parking lot into forest, single track. Good layout and design and kudos to team for that. Thanks to the 2 dozen volunteers who helped. It was recommended that pictures be taken of events like this.
- 2) There is an RFP for the trail which calls for a professional trail designer and an ecologist to work as a team. Please disseminate RFP widely.

## **Other**

- 1) Jeanette Malone is looking for a female role model for the youth groups she leads to help with the river restoration tree planting.
- 2) Jon Kart is still looking for people to take the lead on protecting Volunteer's Green trail trees from beavers.
- 3) Bob Low is working with Connie on clarifying CRF expenditures. Judy agreed to look up the additional SE Group application to expand the recreation plan to a management plan. The \$200 to Jon Kart for trees needs to be added.
- 4) Land on Dr. Paquette's horse farm on Dugway Rd is for sale for 2.4 million

**UCF Proposal**

- 1) Caitlin is submitting a grant proposal on behalf of the RCC to the Urban and Community Forestry program, for treatment or removal of certain ash trees in Richmond. Is there a particular treatment window for ash? (To protect pollinators treatment should be applied when the trees are not flowering).

**Matters Arising**

None

**Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted, Judy Rosovsky