

**Richmond Conservation Commission
December 10, 2019
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Meeting start: 7:45 pm

Commissioners Present:

- Judy Rosovsky, Elizabeth Wright, Bob Low, Max Krieger, Kristin Nelson

Members of the Public Present

- Wright Preston

Public comment:

- None

Motion to Approve October 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

- **Discussion:** None
- **Approved by Unanimous Vote 5-0**

Motion to Approve November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

- **Discussion:** None
- **Approved by Unanimous Vote 5-0**

Motion for the Richmond Conservation Commission to recommend that the Selectboard approve Richmond Conservation Reserve Funds for the Stage Road Town Forest in an amount up to \$4,500 with a sunset provision of three years from the date of approval:

- Presentation by Wright Preston regarding the reserve fund application
- **Discussion:**
 - The Commission recognizes that the Richmond Selectboard already voted to donate the conservation easement over the property to the Richmond Land Trust
 - The Town of Bolton is also contributing \$4,500 in costs to move forward with the project
 - The money allotted from the CRF will only be used towards the Richmond parcel
 - The Commission recognizes prior threats of development on both the Richmond and Bolton parcels
 - A proposed use of the Richmond parcel was for a wind turbine/wind energy
 - A proposed use for the Bolton parcel was for a recreational dirt-bike center
 - The Commission discussed the associated costs of the project including recording fees, attorney's fees, and future potential legal costs. The commission determined that these fees are reasonable, and recognized that the entire \$4,500 may not be used
 - The \$4,500 will sunset in three years, but can be re-approved by the Commission
 - The Commission recognized specific benefits and reasons to approve the allocation:

- The clarity of the application
 - The allocation is in accord with the Town of Richmond and CRF Goals
 - Preserving this area will protect an existing important wildlife corridor, hunting grounds, historical sites, and recreational uses.
 - The property is entirely surrounded by conserved lands and will create an uninterrupted conservation area.
- **Approved by Unanimous Vote 5-0**

Discussion regarding recommendations for a new member of the Andrews Community Forest Commission:

- The Andrews Community Forest Commission has one open commissioner seat to fill, and has requested the names of two Richmond Conservation Commissioners who are interested in the position.
- The RCC recognizes that it has the authority to only give one name, and appoint that person to the ACFC, but will give two names in this instance.
- Both Caitlin and Jack have expressed interest in the position, so the RCC will give both names to the ACFC to decide.

Review of the CRF renewal presentation:

- The Commission discussed Bob's presentation
- The idea of an open meeting in February, prior to Town Meeting Day was discussed
- An RCC member will give a similar presentation on Town Meeting Day.

Matters Arising:

- None

Adjourned

Draft minutes due by 12/15/2019