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**CRF request for community garden**

1 message

**Rosovsky, Judy** <Judy.Rosovsky@vermont.gov>

Fri, Sep 24, 2021 at 8:43 AM

To: "Arneson, Joshua" &lt;jarneson@richmondvt.gov&gt;

Cc: Ravi Venkataraman &lt;rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov&gt;, "feinson@gmavt.net" &lt;feinson@gmavt.net&gt;

Hi,

The Richmond Conservation Commission has unanimously approved a motion requesting that the Selectboard approve use of \$2000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund towards infrastructure of a community garden. The approved motion is as follows:

"Richmond Community Garden CRF Application, 9/14/21 Motion

The Richmond Conservation Commission (RCC) unanimously recommends that the Selectboard approve the proposal from the Richmond Community Garden, (RCG), dated 9/1/21, to use \$2000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF) to cover the costs of improving infrastructure for the RCG Bridge Street Garden, as described in the application. In doing so, the RCC recognizes the fit with CRF criteria related to outdoor recreation and agricultural activities, and the in-kind cost sharing."

If you all can let Jim Feinson and myself know when this can come before the SB, we can arrange to attend.

Thanks,

Judy Rosovsky

State Entomologist

State Plant Regulatory Official

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she/her pronouns

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 **2021\_Community Garden CRF Application\_Final\_Feinson.docx**  
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TO: Richmond Conservation Commission  
FR: Richmond Community Garden  
RE: Conservation Reserve Fund Application  
DA: September 1, 2021

### **Project Description**

The Richmond Community Garden (RCG) was established in 2021. The organization is registered as a non-profit with the State of Vermont and is applying for Federal 501(c)3 non-profit status, which we anticipate receiving. The RCG site is located at 552 Bridge Street, on the northwest corner with Huntington Road. The RCG currently offers 15 garden plots to those without access to garden space. We currently request a \$50 donation per plot per season but the RCG is open to all Richmond residents regardless of ability to pay. This application is for \$2,000.00 of funds to purchase needed infrastructure to enhance the ecological sustainability of the RCG, specifically a community composter, installation of weed mulch, a watering system, natural amendments to improve the garden soil, and lumber to create accessible raised beds.

### **Project Significance**

The RCG allows Richmond residents the opportunity to grow their own food and flowers, ensuring access to fresh and healthy food, and to nature for all. The project meets the criteria of “providing outdoor recreational opportunities” and “conserving important natural and agricultural resources.” The installation of a community composter will allow the recycling of garden waste, reducing the need for collection and transportation of compostables, while enhancing the garden soil. The watering equipment, weed mulch and soil amendments help our gardeners be successful while reducing water usage and garden waste. The lumber for raised beds will make gardening accessible to those without the physical ability for in-ground gardening. As such, this application further meets General Criteria A. 2. “preserving or improving recreational or environmental values;” A.4. “provide public access to a natural resource or recreational area;” Natural Resource Protection Criteria B. 7. “supports low- or no-cost outdoor recreational activities” and Agricultural Resources Protection Criteria C. 1. “has the potential to bring inactive farmland back into economically and ecologically sustainable production.”

### **Project Partners**

The establishment of the RCG has already been supported through the donation of land access by the Bressor family, and the donation of soil tilling by the Farr family, and through donated labor by community members. These donations have a value in excess of \$1,000.

The RCG also partners with and takes advantage of programs of the Vermont Community Garden Network (VCGN). The VCGN provides technical support for those establishing and running community gardens and also connects gardeners with resources and educational opportunities.

## Financial Information

The Conservation Fund grant will be used as follows:

TUFFION 4' x 300' Weed Barrier 2 @ \$71.99	\$143.98
Mantis ComposT-Twin Composter	\$693.95
100' Flexon Hoses (2) and meter, splitter and nozzle	\$112.99
Lumber for three 4' x 8' raised planter boxes.	\$276.00
Compost – 3 yards and delivery	\$201.20
Wood chip mulch – 10 yards delivered	<u>\$350.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$1,778.12
Tax @ 6%	<u>\$106.69</u>
Total	\$1,884.81
Contingency	<u>\$115.19</u>
Total Requested	<u>\$2,000.00</u>

## Long Term Plans

There is room for limited additional expansion at the current site. In addition, Buttermilk LLC, owners of The Creamery, have offered donated access to land for a second community garden site. With these two sites, we anticipate we can meet the near term need for community gardening space in Richmond.

The Richmond Community Garden will also be pursuing educational and operating fund grants to meet recurring ongoing expenses (for example, metered water and insurance) and also to provide garden education and programming to adults and families.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hannah Harrington RCG co-Chair  
Jim Feinson RCG co-Chair

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