

## **RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Meeting Minutes, Tuesday Sep 12, 2017**

**Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge Street, 7:30 p.m.**

In Attendance: Judy Rosovsky, Mary Houle, Bob Low, Kristin Nelson, Elizabeth (Ibit) Wright, Jacob Davignon, Guy Roberts, Rick Barrett

Guests: Bob Heiser (VT Land Trust)

#### **7:30** Minutes

Rick Barrett was appointed as Minutes Taker.  
Minutes for August 08, 2017 were approved.

#### Public comments

None

#### **7:35** Additions, amendments to agenda

- Guy Roberts has been approved by the SelectBoard as an alternate to the Conservation Committee.
- Carol Mader has retired as assistant to the Town Manager.
- Letter of appreciation to Clare Rock, for her work as Town Planner.

#### **7:40** Updates

- Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions will be holding its annual meeting. Ibit and Guy have expressed their intent to attend.
- Gillett Pond Dam replacement is in the final stages of fund raising.
- Jane Dorney, a historian interested in Richmond's lands, is working with the Girl Scouts on a project to produce wood boxes for ducks which lead to a badge of achievement.
- Jim Shallow has completed his bird survey of the Andrews Forest.
- A cooperative movement to address Storm Water Management is in the offing and they will be requesting a meeting with the ConsComm.

#### **7:45** Final Composition of Core Committee

- Initially a “Core Committee” needs to be named; to work with the SE Group in developing a Management Plan for the Andrews Forest (soon to be the Richmond Town Forest). The SE Group will be holding a summit in November of 2017, to include Richmond and the other 9 towns which have received UCF “Town Forest Recreational Planning Grant”. Richmond has been awarded a grant of \$ 10,000 worth of credit to cover the expenses of utilizing consulting services.

As such the SelectBoard has charged the ConsComm to present a list, naming those people who would be interested in sitting on the Core Committee. The “Core” will initiate the first steps in the process of developing the aforementioned management plan.

Members from the following institutions or individuals are suggested as follows:

ConsComm	<i>Guy Roberts</i>
Richmond Trails Committee representative:	<i>Callie Ewald, Willie Lee, Martha Marciel, Tyler Merritt, Jim Monahan, Ian Stokes, Mike Donohue, Ed Wells or chair Jean Bressor.</i>
Richmond Land Trust members	<i>Wright Preston, Brad Elliott</i>
Community Involvement Coordinator (UVM Ext Ofc)	<i>Kate Forrer</i>
UVM Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources	<i>Cecilia Danks</i>
Director of Forestry, Rainforest Alliance	<i>Ben Hodgdon</i>
Journalist/Outside Adventurer/Mountain Biker	<i>Berne Broudy</i>
Former Chair ConsComm, Spatial Analysis Laboratory	<i>Ernie Buford</i>
Parks Regional Manager, VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation	<i>Rob Peterson</i>

The RCC believes that a small, core group of people would be best suited to move forward with the initial steps of the UCF planning process. The RCC agreed to contact these people and determine their interest, prior to the Sept 18<sup>th</sup> SB meeting. Upon approval by the SB, they will be charged with the following tasks:

- 1) Attend the proposed November summit meeting for all the towns involved with the Urban and Community Forestry town forest planning grant, organized by the consulting group SE Group, and conduct the initial contacts with the SE Group,
- 2) Identify stakeholders in the proposed town forest,
- 3) Evaluate and compile current assessments of that property,
- 4) Anticipate interim management responsibilities for the period of time when ownership of the property will be transferred to the town,
- 5) Creating an image gallery of the town forest,
- 6) Report findings.

- Some of the issues, which need to be addressed by the final management plan include: parking, access roads, contact personnel, camping, zip lines, economic analysis and other recreational and conservation activities. Brad Elliott urged the ConsComm and the Core Committee to use a “Do No Harm” approach to planning and managing the Town Forest. For example:
  - Identifying the living elements such as plants, animals and nonliving elements such as soil, water features and bedrock that exist on the property will provide the building blocks of a sound management plan. Such inventories are critical to knowing what to manage and can identify rare species or natural communities that require special management. An initial documentation of site conditions prior to acquisition, will establish a baseline, against which management activities can be measured, in the future.

**9:15 Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn was received and passed.