**Richmond Conservation Commission**

**Meeting on January 10, 2016**

Minutes Submitted by: Elizabeth Wright

**RCC Members in Attendance**: Bob Low, Judy Rosovsky, Rick Barrett, Mary Houle and Elizabeth (Ibit) Wright

**Guests**: Alex Brosam, member of the Richmond Planning Commission; and Alison Anand, long-time former RCC member

We all introduced ourselves.

**1) Streambank erosion concern and discussion**Judy met with Geoff Urbanik about the streambank erosion issues near the Town land on Volunteers Green. We want to get another opinion on the idea of rip-rap that has been voiced by Mike Weisel and is supported by Lincoln Bressor.

And then someone mentioned that that Ann Smith from the Friends of the Winooski River met with Geoff Urbanik and it is unsure what they discussed.

Bob L. hopes that the Arrowwood Report will be reviewed. Streambank erosion is addressed in that document. Bob has read the literature about streambank erosion and how rip-rap will just cause further problems.

Judy will invite Lincoln Bressor to a future meeting to discuss this issue further.

Alison asked whether this issue is really under the RCC purview. Bob thinks so. Judy doesn’t see it as a high priority, but that it is likely something we should care about.

Evidently Linda Parent supports a seasonal portable dock that can help prevent erosion when people enter and exit the river from the Green.

2) **Articles in the Times Ink that relate to issues of interest to the RCC**
The Huntington Community Trust and the HCC want to have a new column in the Times Ink. They have created part of the list of topics that Judy distributed; Judy thought of the other topics. Heidi Racht from The Times Ink is interested in researching and writing some of these articles. The thought is to call the column “Our Natural History.” These would be articles about things such as: meadows/bees/other pollinators, native plants/diversity and conservation. Brad Elliott’s article on wind power siting issues would be a good one. The RCC’s 2016 accomplishments would make for a good article. We would need volunteers to write some of these articles. Brad and Jon Kart might be able to do some. The idea is that that the HCC would do a couple, we’d offer a few, and so would the HCT. Judy will contact Heidi about the length and

Brief talked about supporting the Times Ink, and encouraging subscriptions.
We all agreed it would not be appropriate for our CRF to give money to the Times Ink.

3) **Sea Grant Program Watershed science education /outreach opportunities**
We reviewed the list of various presentations they could offer in our community.
Bob wonders how their presentations have been received in the past and which topics they would like to offer. Judy will talk with Linda Patterson about this. We thought of topics related to local climate/precipitation/drought issues.

4) **Andrews Farm and Forest Land Prospective Purchase**. Bob Heiser would be a good speaker at the Public Info Mtg. on Monday, January 23rd to explain the situation and present to the town about Australian ballot issue of the town’s purchase of the Andrews Forest.

Ibit raised the question of when and how we might weigh in on the management decisions about the Andrews Forest Land. Judy would like to see RCC members on the committee making decisions. Bob thinks we should get involved as soon as possible. No time to waste. Bob would like Judy to communicate with Bob Heiser about how the RCC would like to be involved in any governing body developing policies for the property and its uses. Bob would like her to also advocate that “we would like to create an opportunity for broad town involvement in the Andrews Forest land management.”

Bob has drafted a letter in support of any grant that Bob Heiser is submitting for the Andrews Forest land. We all need to support that letter.

Judy wonders whether we should assign members to specific committee roles. Perhaps we could address this in March.

Alison asked of Mary and Rick what the mountain bikers have done to their land. Mary said they have cut trees and built bootleg trails. Rick said he was upset 5 yrs. ago that they had not asked to use his land when they built bike trails on it.

Alison encourages Sue Morse or Jeff Wallin (involved with a project she knows about) to be consulted about the Andrews Forest.

**Other news and announcements**

Lou Borie is on the Willis Hill Stewardship Committee. We know from him that they are looking for an RCC member to sit on their Stewardship Committee. Fritz Martin had suggested Kristen to do this.

Thursday, January 12th is a Friends of Gillette Pond mtg.

Thursday, January 23rd is the Richmond Climate Town Energy Committee meeting.

Next meeting is on February 14th.

We adjourned about 9:00.

**Minutes Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Wright**