

**RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING July 14, 2015 7:30 p.m.
Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge St.**

Present: Alison Anand, Rick Barrett, Jake Davignon, Bob Low, Judy Rosovsky,
Elizabeth Wright

Guests: Mark Fausel, Clare Rock

7:30: Public Comment: None

7:32 May Minutes Approved, appoint minute taker

7:37 Clare Rock – Town Planning Committee discusses Town Plan revision

Discussion: Current town plan wrote in 2007, readopted in 2012. Based on 2000 census data, readopted with minor changes. Looking for update/re-write town plan. Reaching out to many stakeholders, “What is the vision of Richmond” to help lay foundation. Survey, website, chalkboards, post cards in mail, farmers market table, 1v1 interviews, to gather town stakeholder input. Survey deadline is July 22nd.

Review data, September an event where Richmond vision statement is presented for public review. Fall/winter there will be workshops to discuss issues/talking points of town. Resiliency workshop in October to fulfill VT requirement for Town Plan to have flood resiliency. “How can we be more resilient to flooding? Hazard mitigation techniques, community response plan. Over 250 surveys completed, very high response rate. There will also be a workshop to help define village plan (land use, density, etc.). At least 3 workshop sessions. Town Plan comes into play with Act 250, zoning, grant writing, etc. Needs to be updated. Plan expires every 5 years. Regional Plan prevails if Town Plan expires.

New plan must be drafted by May 2016, tied to municipal planning grant (~\$14k) source to hire consultant. Plan to be reviewed summer 2016 before formal adoption with Planning Commission and select board. Steering committee is working to organize public workshops/events. Claire will eventually be the one re-writing the plan. Planning Committee also has a mailing list, sign-up via the website. www.richmondvtfuture.weebly.com.

Bob Low asked about 1999 town survey results and being re-distributed to public. Comparing 1999 survey results with 2015 could be beneficial/interesting.

Action: Clare Rock: How can RCC participate? Recommendations for plan, provide updated info on completed, or in process projects via RCC fund. RCC will update natural resources section baseline info for the PC/SC. Natural resource inventory baseline needed for plan. Which areas should be top priority for protection? Town Plan is not a regulatory document it is an informative document. Town Plan is the genesis for future ordinances. Town Plan can also act as guidance for incentive plans to protect natural resources. Clearly Identifying the Town Plan’s conservation priorities is key. e.g. 1. Protect Bear Habitat,

2. Protect forest land 3. Flood plain, 3. Ridgelines. Continues priorities from various town surveys, plans, reports, studies. RCC will review town plan and assign areas for RCC members. Claire has maps we can use, BOB HAS DIGITAL COPIES as ArcMap layers.

Resources, Food, Energy report will be a great resource as well.

Working with Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to develop maps for town. Also a good resource for RCC's work.

Should RCC review other areas? Traffic, utilities? No right now, no time. Must prioritize.

At the time of the next meeting August 11th, each member of the RCC will present a list of key areas from the existing town plan. Bring in hard copy of plan with notes, and RCC will then assign sections for each RCC member.

RCC and Plan Comm. Will touch base in October to determine next steps. Perhaps RCC will host public workshop about natural resources sometime during the winter. September meeting goal for RCC members to submit suggestions to Planning Committee.

9:00 Gillett Pond update – engineering firm has been selected to draft plan for dam repair. Chosen by Richmond Land Trust. 5 RFP, narrowed to 2 firms, selected the firm. Next step is to formalize and draw up engineering plans.

9:05 Richmond Town website access: Judy has ability to post, edit, or give out access to RCC members to post on the RCC section of the town website.

9:10 Linda Parent searching for more/new recreation/conservation photos for the town report. Please submit photos to Linda Parent.

9:15 Field trip to view erosion, meeting at 9:00am at Beacon Trail parking lot Saturday July 18th. Friends of the Winooski great resource for river studies, and key areas.

9:18 Discussion: Fiddlehead harvesting still an issue, in Bolton as well. **THIS SHOULD BE A WINTER PRIORITY for RCC.**

9:20 Matters Arising/Announcements: NONE

9:30 Adjourn