

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING May 12, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge St.

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

7:30 Approval of minutes; appoint minute taker

7:40 Introductions and welcome to new commissioner, Jacob Davignon.

7:50 Review Green Up day; thoughts, ideas, comments and volunteers for next year

DISCUSSION: “Green Up Day” went well this year. There did not seem to be large appliances like refrigerators and washers/dryers. Next year it may be a good idea to map areas in town where a large of discarded beer cans are located and forward this information on to Richmond PD. An interactive sign-up sheet on the Town’s web-site could help participants better know where they are needed and participants might appreciate an online publication of what and how much litter is collected. One area which appeared to be somewhat neglected was Route 117 from Route 2, North to a little beyond Rogers Lane.

ACTION: Judy and Andy will create an interactive sign up form with a map ... and also ask what can be done on the Town web-site.

DISCUSSION of Open Public Meeting Laws: The Commission chair reminded the commission that we need to be mindful of the requirements of Open Public Meeting laws.

8:05 Review our potential list of Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF) projects and consider possible expenditures for each. These might include:

DISCUSSION: The commission agrees that it shouldn’t be soliciting projects; however we should engage in appropriate outreach activities to let potential applicants that the Conservation Fund exists and that folks can apply for funding. It would be advantageous to check the link to the Conversation Commission on the Town web-site; to be sure it gets viewers to the correct documents. We should consider an annual article in the Front Porch Forum and the Richmond Times Ink which describes the Commission and its purpose.

ACTION: Ask the Town to move the documents relating to the Commission to our link. Andy and Judy will pursue the publishing and posting of our existence and purpose.

DISCUSSION: Develop a review process to prioritize projects, when we have multiple applications, which need to be considered with the provisions of the Town Plan and the Zoning Ordinances.

EXAMPLES:

-Brick facade Bridge St

-Cheese factory development

-Gillett Pond dam 4 bids are expected by the Richmond/Huntington dam committee which may be followed by an application from the Richmond Land Trust

-Andrews farm forest

-Library roof

Current CRF monies \$175,000 in bank and \$44,000 incoming this fiscal year and presumably for each of the next 4 years.

8:20 Clare Rock, town planner, would like to meet with us in June or July about our input on the revised town plan. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Wed of each month. Solicit volunteers to meet with Clare and town plan committee.

DISCUSSION: Natural Resource inventories and sensitive areas ... Town Plan needs review every 5 years. "Alison": ... re: the Planning Revision Committee wants people's input. We could publicize the unusual features in Richmond like Sandy Castle's in the Place-Sense Report-Richmond Tomorrow ... Jim Shallow's comments about a bird which nests only in Richmond ... they will have a table at the Farmer's Market ... maybe we can share the table ... i.e.: offer the info about unique natural resources.

ACTION: Invite Clare Rock to the next meeting. The Commission would like to let the Town Plan Revision Committee know what we would like to see in the revision and ask what we can provide for their deliberations.

8:35 Science to Action (STA) and related documents re: town plan - how to not re-invent the wheel. Devise strategy for creating our input to the town plan. Consider means for promoting conservation ideas in and around town.

DISCUSSION: Arrowwood Report ... what else can we use as resources for suggestions to the Selectboard and Town Committee - did the last town plan revision fail to get passed because of the zoning issues?? ... were we not articulate enough.

Note from Clare Rock re STA location: "I have replaced the link on the website so the full Arrowwood Report is now uploaded to the reports page. See 2014 Science to Action Natural Resource Report here: <http://www.richmondvt.gov/documents/reports/>. Plus if you want to see the appendices, large scale maps and all other materials, it's on the Arrowwood file

sharing site. To get to that go to their website and go to documents. From there choose Town Natural Resource Inventories, then STA RichmondBolton... “

Other useful and pertinent documents can be found at www.richmondvt.gov/documents/reports, including the municipal planning grant report from 2012 called “Richmond Resources Food Energy Final Report 2012”, and the town plan.

8:50 Other

9:00 Adjourn