

**Richmond Conservation Commission  
Meeting of 7/9/19**

**Minutes**

**Present: Mary Houle, Jack Linn, Bob Low**  
**Guests: Josh Arneson, Wright Preston**

Meeting started: 19:45

**Resolution of Town Forest expenses**

- Memo, 7/2/2019 from Josh Arneson to RCC.
- \$862 of legal fees not authorized to be encumbered in Town Forest Fund needs to be sourced otherwise – proposal that it be Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF).
- Selectboard seeks RCC recommendation.
- Consensus of the three RCC members present was to do so.
- Balance of \$57,138 to be returned to CRF.
- NO VOTE taken: lack of quorum: RCC note to Selectboard still needed.
- Josh will send a note to the Andrews Forest Committee requesting it, too, approve.
- Ca \$20,000 remains available for ongoing Town Forest Expenses.

**Andrews Town Forest**

- There are funds in then Town Highway Department budget to increase parking.
- Jack Long plans to landscape / flatten the area near the kiosk.

**Town Forest Property near Stage Road.**

- Wright Preston reviews history, building on previous presentation to RCC by himself and Lou Borie.
- Property in Richmond and adjoining in Bolton donated to the Towns in the 1940s: 10+ acres
- The properties are surrounded by conserved lands under easements: PRELCO, Jericho / Underhill Land Trust, Vermont land trust.
- Bolton Conservation Commission and Selectboard have voted to conserve Bolton's piece as Forever Wild (No mechanized vehicles, no trails, open to public).
- Properties are too small for State or VLT to pursue.
- Richmond Land Trust (RLT) is drafting a Forever Wild easement modeled on that of Northeast Wilderness trust easements
- Request is for RCC to recommend Forever Wild easement.
- CRF finds of some \$2,500 to be requested (also from Bolton). RLT to absorb insurance costs.
- All lines have been surveyed and marked; logging road crossing the properties will be closed off.
- The threat: Either or both towns decide to sell – property developed (e.g. hunting lodge) compromising surrounding conserved lands.

- RCC members present endorsed proposal to conserve the land as Forever Wild and recommended RLT develop a CRF proposal, hopefully for August meeting.
- NO VOTE taken: lack of quorum.

**CRF Renewal**

- Josh will seek Word version of CRF Fund Policy: Renewal due Town meeting, 2020.
- Ongoing work reconciling history of CRF projects proposed / CRF funds expended / Balance.
- Continuing need to assure maximum benefit / widespread use.

**Matters Arising**

- The Town needs to consider funding a Recreation Director: Mary will research other towns (e.g. Williston, Essex).
- Need to identify an individual(s) who would present a funding proposal to the Selectboard.

Meeting Adjourned: 20:25