

## **Richmond Conservation Commission meeting 2/9/2021 7:30pm**

### **Attending:**

- Max Krieger, minutes taker; Jack Linn; Bob Low; Judy Rosovsky; Ibit Wright

### **Members of public:**

- Caitlin Littlefield → Member of Planning Commission and ACFC presenting EAB plan
- Allen Knowles → general interest
- Jim Monahan → Member of Richmond Land Trust and Andrews Community Forest Committee presenting application for CRF funds for ecological trail design

### **Public comments**

- None

### **Appoint minute taker; review, approve January 2021 minutes**

- Max Krieger taking minutes for February meeting
- Bob moves to approve, Ibit seconds, unanimous approval

### **Andrews Community Forest Conservation Reserve Fund Application – discussion and vote**

- RFP for ecological study and trail builder to design network in conjunction with ecologist
- Application was sent to committee members prior for review
- Request for \$2,000 from the CRF
  - o The total cost is \$12,000, they received other funding from logging revenue and grants
- **MOTION:** “The Richmond Conservation Commission (RCC) enthusiastically recommends approval of the proposal from the Andrews Community Forest Management Committee, dated January, 2021, requesting up to \$2,000 in Conservation Reserve Funds to pursue Phase-2 of trail development, to sunset three years from date of approval. “
  - o Motion by Bob, Second by Jack, Unanimous approval voted from Commission

### **Emerald Ash Borer management plan – update and request for assistance with tasks**

- Caitlin Littlefield presenting 3 phases of EAB plan and is preliminarily requesting support from commission:
  - o The plan is funded by Urban and Community Forestry Grant, and hopefully by the Conservation Commission
  - o Phase 1: manage trees in village and nearby
  - o Phase 2: Tree removals on Richmond’s roads
  - o Phase 3: Management in Andrews Community Forest
- The purpose is to preserve some of the trees where possible, remove ones that might be dangerous, and study/learn from how they are influenced by the EAB and the pesticide treatments
- Some of the trees will be replaced as well with other species (there will be a variety of native, riparian species)

- There will be a contracted professional doing the treatment/removal/etc.
    - This will ensure the treatment occurs safely and consistently.
- The trimming from the removed ash would be chipped and used for mulch for the trees nearby (which will help them stay watered and renders the tree non-dangerous for further EAB spread).
- The wood could be given to local artisans/wood workers to make a bench for the town center and/or bowls to raffle off and raise funds for ongoing efforts or another local artisan purpose
  - Perhaps the commission can solicit ideas on FPF
    - Caitlin's vision is to create products that can help the town, or be used in town in some way
- Jack Linn offered to contact a sawyer to coordinate getting the cut trees down and to his property and turning them in to useable wood for local craftspeople to use in some fashion
- GMP has already removed a significant amount of trees along roads
  - Richmond will then need to work with the highway dept. to remove other trees over several years to ensure the roads are safe
- Caitlin will return with a formal request for funding in the future (spring?)
- Post Card Update: (not part of the grant, but will be a future CRF request)
  - Caitlin has drafted a post card describing the EAB response
  - Judy requests to put the VT invasives website on there
  - Judy and Ibit volunteered to help get the postcards printed and sent out

#### **LIRD update – review Ethan Tapper's plan**

- Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, and Jack Linn went out to the Lake Iroquois forest and took stock of the health of the forest and the possibilities there
- Ethan wrote a letter to the Commission detailing the adventure
- There are vernal pools, and other interesting resources
- The boundary will be marked (which is necessary for a management plan to be created)

#### **Richmond Mobil Station upgrade – suggestions**

- Jack's suggestion as a citizen (not as a commission member) → use the opportunity of the Mobil being upgraded to extend the Richmond Town water line down the road and spread the cost to more users
  - Water is extremely expensive in Richmond...
  - Judy might follow up folks from the town regarding this idea

#### **Wetlands – Jack Linn comment re zoning suggestions**

- **Moving forward with wetlands inventory – who requests?**
- Judy has asked whether the Conservation Commission can request funds for its own activities...
  - The question of whether this is allowed remains...
- How do we want a professional wetland's specialist involved?
  - Bob's suggestion → have person doing construction pay a specialist
    - Judy's issue is that the consultant would be biased towards the developer
  - Jack's suggestion:

- Involve Chittenden County Planning Commission
      - This is a wide-spread problem and most town's wetlands are not well mapped
    - Also involve the Richmond Planning Commission?
  - The wetland inventory is VERY IMPORTANT (we would like to move this forward somehow)
  - Max's suggestion:
    - Ask the State to potentially weigh in on evaluations of class 3 wetlands if this comes to fruition
  - Have Kathleen Gent get involved → she commented on the Mobil station plan and she was formerly the town planner

### **VMN info and Dorney blog**

- Judy will post this to FPF

### **Matters arising**

- There is a proposed development on Hillview and the DRB meeting on it is tomorrow night (suggested by Judy)
  - Does the commission have a comment?
    - We should submit some form of comment if we want to further engage in this process
  - Questions we should ask?
    - Conservation Commission asks whether the DRB will request the applicant to go through the ANR layers they have and respond?
    - Express that the commission would like to continue to be involved
  - More generally: Does the Commission want to be in line to get involved in these sorts of things?
    - It sounds like there is support on the commission to be involved more in the planning process
    - Members of the Commission would like to support smart growth, growth for density vs. sprawl, and conservation of farmland and working farms

**9:15 → Adjourn**

**Minutes taken by Max Krieger for the RCC**