

Richmond Conservation Commission
February 14th, 2023

Members in attendance: Elizabeth (Ibit) Wright, Judy Rosovsky, Daniel Schmidt, Kit Emery, Kate Kreider

Community Members in attendance: Nancy Zimny (Richmond Resident), Ian Stokes (Richmond Resident), Dan Schmidt (ACF Committee), Jeanette (Richmond Resident), Daniel Wolfson (Richmond Resident), Deb Shelby (Bolton Resident)

7:35 PM: Public Introductions: Brad Elliot introduced himself.

7:40 PM: Appoint a minutes taker: Kit Emery volunteered to take minutes.

7:50 PM: December minutes approval: Members reviewed the current draft with Bob's previous edits.

January minutes approved: Some spelling edits to be made by Kate Kreider then was approved by committee members.

7:55 PM: Amendments to the agenda: Deb Shelby is a Bolton resident who runs a web development business. She contacted Kate to speak to the RCC on behalf of Bolton Recreation Committee. Bolton is part of "Science to Action". She talked about putting together recommendations to establish guidelines for outdoor recreation her goal is finding resources that people agree and collaborate. "I've already had someone state that trails have no impact on wildlife, so I know finding a truth we all agree on may be harder than I would like it to be".

8:00 PM: Update from RCC Subcommittee and discussion regarding the speaker series: The subcommittee members are Daniel, Kit, and Ibit. Ibit gave a summary of the work that the subcommittee has done so far. The subcommittee has contacted potential speakers, two of the speakers, Meredith Naughton and Kathyryn Wrigley have accepted the invitation to speak. Bob Zaino declined but will put Daniel in touch with someone else. Liz Thompson is no longer doing talks in the evening. The Subcommittee will talk (by phone) this week to come up with two other speakers to participate in the series. Daniel will send out an email to Kit and Ibit and we will narrow the date down to two dates and discuss location and process. A motion was made to use CRF funds to pay for the speakers and Judy will ask for additional expenses, i.e. food and drink.

8:15 PM: Letter of support for declaration of state Invasive Pest Mgt day: Judy made a motion that we provide a letter of support. The motion was approved to support State Invasive Pest Mgt Day.

8:20 PM Conservation Business:

- Preference for meeting in-person or hybrid; whatever is posted on the agenda is what we have to do. Agree to continue hybrid.
- Record meetings for RCC use or for the access- We are not required to record meetings. RCC Members did not have a strong opinion either way. Brad suggested we should record meetings but the Commission did not wish to do so.
- Review notes from Josh on CRF 2022 expenditures- Judy thanked Bob and Brad for their work on this. The committee talked about creating a fund that can track our expenditures. Judy went through the projects that the committee is either working on or completed. Update on Gillete Pond – it is moving forward and the CRF \$150,000 has been transferred.
- Brad stated we are closing in on 2 million in matching funds.
- Volunteer to present RCC pitch for renewing CRF on March 4th (Sat) am- It's Judy's birthday and she is asking for someone to speak on her behalf. Bob agreed.
- Green Up Day- Ibit will organize this event. RCC members will help send messages out on FPF.
- Fern Signage will be needed post March-Ibit and Kit volunteered to help place signs. Judy to find out about monies to use for new signs. Other options, we may need people to patrol the areas that are being illegally harvested. Someone asked if Fish and Wildlife could intervene.

9:00 PM Discussion of Andrews Community Forest Committee proposed MGT plan changes. Conservation Commission should do due diligence and review MP for congruence with Town Plan Natural Resources section and the Andrews property Transfer document (Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Public Access Easement). Timeline for completion? This is a conservation priority Judy lead us through the Natural Resources section step by step. Noting that sections 1-5 speaks directly to the ACF. Committee members will read the NA sections goals and actions to make certain the MP matches the TP.

Comments regarding MP vs TP:

Brad stated the Town Plans can have statutory authority as expressing the broad wishes and priorities of the communities that developed and votes on them. He stated Town Plans carry enormous weight and can have legal clout!

Brad also asked what the time table is for the final draft of the MP.

Dan S. mentioned there were no significant changes to the MP.

Ibit, stated "its hard to believe the MP meets the checklist described in the Town Plan".

Dan S. mentioned iterative trail data would be great.

Judy mentioned the Easement Plan is different and is monitored by the VLT.

Jeanette wrote in on chat, "she didnt think Arrowood gave full hearted endorsement to the trail design. They took the lead of the ACFC and Sinuosity, a mountain biking trail building company who directed them to survey trails they scouted and did the best they could knowing ecological compromise would be made."

Ian asked about Arrowood recommendation monitoring of trail usage and ecological impact needing a monitoring component. The MP2 lacks monitoring and management information.

Dan S questioned the process, who's going to draft our questions on the MP vs TP and whether it meets the goals?? Commissioners have the opportunity to comment on the MP2 as individuals.

9:20 PM Discussion of use of CRF Funds to subsidize purchase of non-lead ammo:

No decision made by the committee just suggestions

Ibit questions the funding for ammo and suggests we fund to provide education around this issue.

Nancy states, its a big behavioral change for hunters. Anything the community can do to make it less impactful. Its an important role for conservation.

9:25 Matters Arising:

Ibit stated her time with the RCC is up and she would like to be re-appointed to the committee.

Special thanks to Deb Shelby who joined the RCC meeting tonight.

9:30PM: Motioned motioned to adjourn. Kit seconded. Unanimously agreed, meeting adjourned.