

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting notes, Tuesday April 11, 2023

7:30 PM

Agenda:

7:30 p.m. Public introductions and comments

Public attending: Caitlin Littlefield, Brad Elliot

Committee Members attending, Judy Rosovskyⁱ, Ibit Wright, Daniel Schmidt, Max Krieger, Bob [LoweLow](#)

7:35 Appoint minutes taker and approve March minutes

March minutes approved

7:50 Additions, amendments to agenda

Discussion about recreation committee proposal for updates to the town green

7:55 Consider application for Conservation Reserve Fund monies towards continued treatment of town ash trees using emamectin benzoate

21 total trees to re-treat

EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) is more prevalent and there is a recommendation for a moderate dose, instead of a low dose.

Two questions from Caitlin

1. Should we do a second dose in 2 years or 3?
 - a. RCC recommends doing the second dose now
2. What should we do on Church street?
 - a. We don't have a good plan for knowing how to proceed with these Ash trees on Church St.

Another stewardship idea would be to focus on the [tress-trees](#) along the river, adjacent to Cochran Rd.

This is private land but there is a public right of way. And there is also a safety concern for people using the trail.

Motion:

The Richmond Conservation Commission unanimously approves Conservation Reserve funding in an amount not to exceed \$3,750 to cover the costs of ongoing ash tree EAB treatment involving insecticide treatment, as described in its application dated 4/8/23, to be expended within the current calendar year. The request is in full accord with CRF guidelines and priorities as described in the application.

Appropriate EAB remediation will require bi-annual treatments. There should be discussion by the Selectboard regarding the appropriate source of funding for such a recurring expense should it remain justified.

8:00 – Thoughts on rec plan

Is there a role for the RCC to comment on the proposal?

Perhaps there are alternatives to the Town Green design that are less “pavement and fences” oriented and more nature oriented. This would be a good topic for individuals on the committee to look into. Ibit may try to attend the meeting on Wednesday at 7.

8:10 Public Panel – Review, lessons learned, summary?, next steps

Review:

- Overview of the event (no need to repeat here)
- Lessons learned
 - o 4 panelists was a good number
 - o Having a moderator was also very useful
 - o Panelists should have had individual microphones
 - o Content –
 - Yes trails have impact and yes you can do trail design to mitigate that impact
 - The idea that trail design also is determined by a town's identity was a very important point
 - o Having more time to set up technology would have been useful, we were scrambling at the beginning of the meeting trying to set up zoom
 - o We hopefully did enough advertising because we brought a lot of people to the event
 - o Action item: send the video to the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions
- Next steps
 - o Perhaps have Sue Morse give a presentation on wildlife in the Richmond town center
 - o Or perhaps Allaire Diamond
 - o Or an Audubon walk in the ACF in early May
 - o An Ethan Tapper community walk in the ACF
 - Daniel to reach out to Ethan and Audubon to see if they could do a joint walk in early May.

8:35 ACFC Public Meeting – Review, thoughts, next steps

- Review
 - o No need to write this all up here
- Thoughts
 - o Trails having impact on wildlife as an emerging science was a phrase that was used, but doesn't seem 100% correct
 - o Question of what type of monitoring would be reasonable in the ACF
 - o Was good to feel heard about people's concerns, considerations, recommendations
 - o It would be good to have more of these events that are more solutions-based

- Next steps
 - o Melissa Levy report to ACFC and ACFC has to decide how to move forward

8:55 Green Up coming – update, assistance required? [Skip if Ibit still out of town]
Green up day is May 6th

Need for one or two other RCC people to help out with both marketing/advertising and also on Green up day.

The road crew volunteers on Saturday to pick up trash bags. So there might be a way to tell folks to put trash bags at intersections or bring them to the town garage.

Daniel volunteers to create a social media post to share with local groups about Richmond's green up day.

9:05 Ferns – help making signs

Signs – need to put up signs and there are different signs for each of the different easement zones

What can we actually do about fiddlehead harvesting?

Is this a thing that the Richmond PD can be involved in?

Or is something fish and wildlife would regulate?

Judy will talk to Richmond PD and let us know what they say about enforcing fiddlehead harvesting

9:10 Matters arising

Daniel is leaving his job at VYCC and will be gone from Richmond (traveling) between May 23 to July 27. But will be back after that!

9:15 Adjourn

Minutes (formal or informal) are due at the town offices 5 days after any public meeting.

Please send RCC chair a draft within 5 days from this meeting (by 4/16/2023).