

# **RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## **Meeting Minutes, Tuesday August 8, 2023**

**7:30 PM**

**Time: August 8th, 2023 at 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

7:30 p.m. Public introductions and comments

RCC members attending: Judy Rosovsky, Bob Galvin, Bob Low, Kit Emery, Jeanette Malone, Ibit Wright, Daniel Schmidt (note taker)

Members of the public attending: Cecilia Danks, June Heston

7:35 Appoint minutes taker and approve June minutes; note July meeting was cancelled due to flooding

June minutes have passed

7:45 Additions, amendments to agenda  
none

7:50 Update on ACFC and discussion of moving forward

RCC discussion about updates on the ACFC/SB

Bob Low makes the point that the way in which members are appointed should be the same for every committee. In that, committees nominate members but the SB makes the final decision as to who is appointed to the committees. This uniformity is important.

June agrees with the idea that all committees operate in the same way.

The town forest steering committee had advocated for the ACFC to have two members from the trails committee and two members from the RCC. This would allow for a balance of conservation and recreation perspectives.

Cecilia makes the point that having two members from RCC and two from RTC was to have interlocking committees. A connection between these different committees allows for communication and synergy between the committees.

Bob points to the bylaws for the ACFC that were adopted on November 19, 2018, which says that the trails committee and RCC can nominate one person from their respective committee and one person from outside their committee to be a member of the ACFC. "Both the RCC and the RTC shall also each recommend an individual that are not members of these committees."

Cecilia asks what role the RCC would like to have in terms of nominating members? Cecilia states that the most important thing for the ACFC/SB meeting is to talk about how the ACFC can move forward, rather than looking at the past.

How can the RCC help in moving things forward? Is a larger discussion about conservation and recreation warranted? Kit states that the management plan is very open to interpretation. Kit wonders if we should focus on getting the management plan in good shape so that it offers clear direction.

Bob's six point plan on how we might proceed

1. Move forward
2. work together
3. give the ACFC some space to do their work
4. help the ACFC with dialogue
5. RCC involvement when and where it is helpful
6. revision of management plan

June is interested in being the RCC representative to the ACFC. She has experience with facilitation and she believes that people need to compromise.

8:15 Recommendation for replacement for Caitlin as RCC requested representative to ACFC committee

Criteria that we want in a candidate

- hard worker
- experience as a facilitator
- someone with different life experiences and different backgrounds
- Someone who is interested in conservation, but not necessarily with a background in conservation

Bob Galvin is interested in potentially being the ACFC representative.

Are there any other RCC members interested in being the representative for the ACFC? (Max or Alison?)

Daniel will post to FPF for ACFC representatives after Monday's ACFC/SB meeting.

8:25 Consider how to thank Caitlin for her many contributions (EAB, work on ACFC)

Ash wood cookie, "Thanks for helping with all these Ash holes!"

Jeanette will also work on putting together an e-card for Caitlin.

8:35 Trails, farms and other areas - restoration post-flooding: how can RCC help?

Johnny Brook Trail – still standing!

We will remind the trails committee that there are funds available for restoration work after the floods. We will also reach out to local farmers, and NOFA, to see what needs the RCC might be able to help with.

9:05 - Discussion of second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides. See this piece in the Boston Globe from this week (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/07/03/opinion/rat-poison-sgar-bald-eagles-owls/>) and this piece written in May by the Vermont Audubon Society on the impacts of SGARs in VT (<https://vt.audubon.org/news/are-we-burning-down-our-house-kill-rat-why-use-second-generation-anti-coagulant-rodenticides>).

| What is the RCC role in educating people about this? Bob: RCC could look into the use of SGAC's in the community. We can post to FPF, convene a panel, talk about alternatives.

9:20 Matters arising

9:30 Adjourn