

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting notes, Tuesday February 13, 2023

7:30 PM

As of December 2022 the RCC will meet in person at the town offices with a virtual presence.

You can join us in-person at the Town Offices 3rd floor, online using the link below or by calling in.

You may use the "Join By Phone" number to call from a cell phone or landline. When prompted, enter the meeting ID provided below to join by phone. Please contact Josh Arneson at 802-434-5170 or at jarneson@richmondvt.gov or Judy Rosovsky at 802-324-3473 or at judy.rosovsky@comcast.net with any questions on how to join this meeting.

Time: February 13, 2023 at 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87141033771>

Meeting ID: 871 4103 3771

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kgpFEWQP8>

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) (Dial this number, then enter the meeting code)

Agenda:

Please note that times are approximate.

7:30 p.m. Public introductions and comments

Members of the public attending – Sam Pratt, Daniel Wolfson, Callie Ewald, Alison Anand, Lisa Miller

Committee Members attending – Bob Galvin, Daniel Schmidt, Ibit Wright, Bob Low, Kit Emery

7:35 Appoint minutes taker and approve/amend January minutes

Daniel taking minutes

Motion to approve the January minutes – motion passes!

7:45 Additions, amendments to agenda

Updates on salamander signs

Invasive removal equipment – can we store them at the library?

7:50 Request for CRF funds from Trails – Old Jericho Road Bridge Engineering application

RTC submitted an application to the RCC to fund an engineering plan for a bridge that had been washed out during the summer flood. Callie provided a brief overview. Discussion ensued.

Part of the Old Jericho Road is on private property. The question arose as to whether the bridge is on the part of the road that is on private property.

Callie said that she thinks that the bridge is on the public part of the road but will need to check on this and get back to us. She also relayed plans to hire expertise to do an engineering plan so that the bridge (and trail) would be much more resilient for future flooding.

This application would just be for the engineering site plan. Another application for the actual construction would come later on.

Ibit brings up the question of whether this area should continue to have a trail? This may be something that Stone Environmental can help assess. Jeanette adds that it's important to look at this trail holistically and decide whether it is possible to rebuild this entire trail. The bridge is just one component of the entire trail. If there isn't a safe trail then there is not much use in having a new bridge.

We may need to bring professional trail builders in to rehabbing the trail. There has been massive erosion and there is very little space to work with in certain spots. And there isn't a way that the trail could keep to just one side of the stream.

Bob asks the question about whether RTC would be required to get bids for this plan rather than just being able to contract with one organization.

Dan Wolfson asks a question about bridge design. What would be the impact of getting equipment into the site? Is there a way the bridge can be built that is lower impact? It may be possible to build the bridge by hand and to limit any further erosion by removing material while creating the bridge.

Next steps:

RTC will look into a more expansive project proposal to look at the feasibility of a trail within the Old Jericho Road. Rather than just looking at the bridge.

RTC will also look into the private parcel that is on the north end of Old Jericho Road.

RTC will get back to RCC with an amended proposal.

RTC will ask the town to see if they require bids based on the cost of the proposal.

RTC to discuss with the State (ANR) given its regulations and permit requirements for riparian areas.

RTC to check with Zoning Administrator / DRB in terms of Zoning Bylaw requirements.

The application will be tabled until next time.

8:10 Updates:

- 1) If anyone attended the Town Center meeting

No one attended

- 2) Vermont Master Naturalist info

Ibit volunteers to communicate with Alicia Daniel

- 3) Anyone want to join or have Friends of the Winooski River (FOWR) newsletters forwarded to them?

Bob Galvin will

- 4) Any possible RCC candidates?

Sam Pratt will likely not apply for the RCC open position.

Bob has someone who is interested.

It would be great to reach out to groups and organizations that are not in our network. Such as Richmond Racial Equity or the Richmond Climate Action Committee. Outreach efforts and a potential write up will be discussed at the next meeting.

8:20 Update from Andrews Community Forest Committee (ACFC) – Daniel

Discussion about subcommittees. For those not on the ACFC, there are opportunities to participate in the subcommittees. Just come to a meeting or reach out to any ACFC member if interested.

8:45 Draft presentation of CRF renewal for town meeting – or just discussion

1-2 CRF messages on FPF per week. We will present an update on past awards and that this updated version will be posted to RCC town website.

9:00 Matters arising

Can someone help Ibit run the GreenUp day in early May. Bob has volunteered to help with that.

Jeanette provides update on salamanders!

Jeanette is waiting to hear back from North Branch about amphib training program. They will let her know when the training is ready to go. More details to come at the next meeting.

The library is interested in possibly housing the equipment for invasive removal. Potential training at the library to do a hands-on workshop to identify and remove invasives. Alison notes poison parsnip and it's prevalence in Richmond.

9:05 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 2/18/2024).