

RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes December 12, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge St.

RCC members present: Daniel Schmidt, Kit Emery, Max Krieger, Jeanette Malone, Judy Rosovsky, (Ibit) Elizabeth Wright , Bob Low, Bob Galvin

Members of the public: Ian Stokes, Lisa Miller (Richmond Selectboard), Brad Elliott (ACFC Member), Wright Preston

7:30 p.m. **Public introductions and Comments:** None

7:35 **Appoint minutes taker and approve/amend November minutes:** Kit Emery, No amendments to November minutes

7:45 **Additions, amendments to agenda:** None

7:50 **Wright Preston application for ACFC Committee - At Large Seat**

Motion to support/not support Wright's candidacy to the ACFC at-large seat

The committee discussed Wright's application and qualifications (All committee members were in favor of Wrights candidacy to this position).

Ibit: Wright was on the original Town Forest Steering Committee and he was loyal, a great colleague, his land adjoins the ACFC so he is an important stakeholder. He is an excellent person to work with.

Judy: Wright is quite knowledgeable about the ACF property, having walked most of it and maintained much of the open areas. He was a calming presence on the TFSC and when that entity was dissolved in favor of the ACFC, Wright was invited to serve on the ACFC. This is testament to his ability to bridge divisions and find mutually agreeable solutions to volatile problems. I believe his presence on the ACFC would be of invaluable help to that committee.

Bob L: Wright knows the forest and comes with forest ecology knowledge. He has concrete ideas about moving forward with the issues out there. He knows forest management and seeks widespread forest use. He has administrative experience from the SB and understands town governance. And he knows the context of the controversies around the forest and trail building there.

Jeanette: It is hard to get new people up to speed on this committee so she is relieved to have someone with experience with the ACF and ACFC apply for the open seat.

Dan (to Wright): In addition to trails what are you interested in on behalf of the town that fits with the ACF Master Plan that Wright could pursue in addition to trails?

Wright: Does the forestry administration on his land; is dismayed by the industrial construction the power company installed and would like to work with the power co. towards softening the impact of any future such work. The roads needs to be at a municipal scale and not at a forestry scale. Wright wants a legal ROW but it can have both positive and negative impacts. It does affect the parking area which is too

small. He supports all of the public using the ACF, and voted in favor of creating additional well made trails.

One of his suggestions is to the community is to work with Maple Wind Farm to shift from the washing out old farm road to the utility power line road.

Brad: Wright's best qualification is family land and town governance and knowledge of outside stakeholders and how they work. He was chair of the Selectboard at one time. The ACFC is a fairly young group (or was) and Wright will bring some good guidance and experience to the committee.

Kit – Seconds Brad's comments and supports Wright as a good addition to any group.

Ian – on behalf of the ACFC he appreciates Wright's application.

Bob G.: what did the Trails Committee think?

Bob L: Trails put in an opinion though there is no obligation for either committee to say anything.

JR note: Trails voted 6-0 against having Wright be the Trails representative on the ACFC but voted 3-3 to support Wright's candidacy to the ACFC at-large seat.

Judy made a motion to the floor to support Wright's candidacy to the ACFC Committee – At Large Seat

Max made a motion and Jeanette seconded the motion. The Conservation Commission unanimously approved the motion.