

Richmond Conservation Commission Minutes

August 13, 2024

7:30 p.m. - Public Introductions and Comments

7:35 p.m. - Appoint Minutes Taker and Approve/Amend June Minutes

* Minutes Taker: Jeanette

* Approval: Kit approved the minutes, noting they were well done. Additional kudos to Bob G for his fine work.

7:45 p.m. - Additions and Amendments to Agenda

* Changes: Judy made changes prior to the meeting, all approved.

7:50 p.m. - Insect Project in Public Park – Nathan Lake via Alicia Daniels

* Overview: Nathan Lake proposed using indicator species to monitor insect community changes due to flooding and ecological changes. Noted that sand deposits provide good insect habitat for certain species.

* Presentation: Nate explained his moth capturing system as part of his VT Master Naturalist project. He is interested in other RCC projects and whether he can self-direct his projects. Nate is excited to go above and beyond the requirements of the VMN program.

* Responses:

o Bob G: Supports Nate's self-direction and is glad he's here to help.

o Kit: Welcomed Nate and supported his initiative to work on his own projects.

o Sam: Mentioned recent meetings focused on river and riparian projects.

o Nate: Eager to contribute and values volunteer work. Background includes a decade in agriculture and running the People's Farm at Intervale.

o Jm: Inquired about the native tree program and resource sharing.

o Bob G: Provided Nate information about amphibian crossings.

o DS: Mentioned available funds for Nate's project ideas and the need for a robust insect survey.

o Nate: Clarified timing for moth collection in fall.

o Jm: Expressed interest in connecting support for moths with backyard reWilding.

o Nate: Will check in with Judy about other ideas and asked about the need for a proposal. DS agreed it was a good idea.

8:05 p.m. - Invasive Species Efforts

* Jm: Suggested training people to identify and remove invasives in their own backyards as an effective way to tackle them community wide. Educating folks about how to do so is key to generating action.

* DS: Discussed prioritizing invasive species management, focusing on landowner education and public land management. Mentioned Habitat Restoration VT in Hinesburg.

* Sam: Supported public education as a gateway approach and expressed interest in a fall event.

* Nate: Shared his partner's use of invasives for medicinal purposes and herbal remedies.

* DS: Identified a 4-month window for invasive management.

- * JM: Suggested late fall for certain shrubs such as honeysuckle and early detection for difficult species like Japanese knotweed. Mentioned goats as a potential solution.
- * DS: Recommended talking to the road crew about adjusting their mowing schedule.
- * BG: Will seek permission from JK.
- * Kit: Proposed identifying priority areas.
- * Sam: Expressed interest in organizing a fall event.
- * Susannah Zeveloff (susannah.zeveloff@gmail.com): Showed interest in joining the working group for invasive species.

8:20 p.m. - Updates on River Projects

- * Discussion: Reviewed river projects and participant list. Considered setting priorities.
- * Sam: Referenced notes and Judy's look into Geomorphic Assessment.
- * DS: Mentioned several hurdles and the need for a discussion with Judy about the assessment.
- * JM: Suggested prioritizing by season, depending on gathered information.

Rain Garden Discussion

- * Considerations: Rain gardens should ideally not be placed in floodplains due to potential damage during extreme weather events. They should be in well-drained areas.
- * Resources:
 - o Soils information available at:
 - ? ANR Maps
 - ? Web Soil Survey
 - o Keith Osborne: Suggested Joline Court as a potential location.
- * Costs:
 - o Varies based on scale. Volunteer work could reduce costs for backyard gardens, while larger projects may need professional design and installation.
 - o Hyde Park Contact: pollinatorpathwaylc@gmail.com
 - o Business Recommendation: Ecolibrium VT
 - o Jillian Sarazen: (Jillian.Sarazen@uvm.edu) for Green Infrastructure project recommendations.
- * Rain Garden Manuals:
 - o Home Rain Garden Manual
 - o VT Storm Water Management

Fish Biota on Snipe Island/Snipe Island

- * Inquiry:
 - o Need details on the initial study, focus, and how to assist.
 - o Further investigation required.

Literature and Outreach

- * Farmers Market Table: Coordinating a table to promote conservation and river-related opportunities.
- * Literature Requests:
 - o Storm Water and Rain Garden Manuals are available in PDF form. Additional copies can be provided.

- o Contact FOWR for literature or signage.

9:00 p.m. - BioFinder Training and Next Steps

* Training:

- o JM: Most important information discussed.
- o DS: Useful for identifying priority invasive plant areas.
- o Sam: Suggested community training with a big screen and breakout groups.

Use guiding questions to learn and practice how to use BioFinder in our community. How the various layers of the map can give us meaningful conservation info.

- o BG: Consider recording the training.
- o Kit: Prefers a big screen for presentations.
- o JM: Will compile a list with Sam of questions and plan for a winter meeting.

9:15 p.m. - Streambank Restoration Project and Tree Planting at Volunteer's Green

* Update:

- o Jon's email discussed phases for tree planting and potential collaboration.
- o Sam: Suggested working with Dan Hamilton in the fall and Sandy for the spring. Jeanette will reach out to Sandy and Dan.
- o DS: Consider delaying tree planting until October.

9:25 p.m. - Matters Arising

9:30 p.m. - Adjournment

- * Motion: Adjourned at 9:30 p.m. All in favor.