

## **RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Meeting notes, Tuesday September 10, 2024**

**7:30 PM**

### **Agenda:**

Please note that times are approximate.

7:30 p.m. Public introductions and comments  
Bob, Sam, Judy, Bob L, Bob G, Daniel, Jeanette and Ibit attending

7:35 Appoint minutes taker and approve/amend August minutes. There was no July meeting due to flooding, and thus no July minutes

August minutes approved  
Daniel taking minutes

7:45 Additions, amendments to agenda

We discussed the tree planting project proposed by teachers at Richmond Elementary. Jeanette will communicate with Sandy and then report back to Judy and Sam about next steps.

In addition, Bob L. is going to send the committee the email from RLT about Donahue brook and its current status.

Also discussed was the advisory body status for RCC. Because we are an advisory body (and do not make ultimate decisions), it appears we can bypass open meeting laws when it comes to internal activities.

7:50 How to proceed with a Conservation Design/BioFinder training

The goal of the workshop is to introduce the different committee members to BioFinder. We agree that it can be a useful tool for many committees

In terms of the nuts and bolts of the workshop, 12-15 people are able to attend the workshop that Jens would provide. We need to determine how to invite/select people from the different committees to join for the workshop. We want to fill the seats but need to be mindful of the 15 person limit.

One idea that was brought up was to request that workshop attendees learn about BioFinder beforehand. This would allow us to dig a little deeper during the workshop. We can also help ground truth the data from BioFinder, being the eyes on the ground.

Judy will circulate a draft of a message that we can send to potential attendees.

8:05 Updates on Vermont Master Naturalist activities

VT Master Naturalist program has a lot of activities coming up. RCC members have the opportunity to sign up for any activity they are interested in. Judy will send out the list.

8:15 Updates on river projects

Rain garden project - we are moving forward with this.

Geomorphic assessment. Judy will continue to work on this.

We have plenty of funding and we are having more flooding, so it seems like a perfect fit to focus on projects related to flooding. We do need to do projects that have a public benefit, which we believe can be on private land. It would benefit us to more effectively communicate that the RCC can fund projects on private land as long as they have a public benefit.

We also discussed housing in the floodplain and the role of the RCC in both housing and also in potential land acquisition in the floodplain.

We are going to focus on the the geomorphohic assessment and the rain garden as priority projects. We will keep the other projects on the backburner.

The Richmond Farmers market will allow the RCC to table at 2 of the remaining 7 markets. The tabling will be focused on flood issues. We might be able to get materials from Friends of the Winooski.

The first market we'll focus on save our salamanders and invasive management, the second market will focus on flooding. Tentative dates are 9/27 and 10/18. Bob G will submit the application and let us know what the final dates are.

Bob G has the tent!

8:25 Matters arising

none

8:30 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn passes

**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 9/15/2024).**