

JAMESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 12th, 2002 7:00 PM, Town Hall
Minutes

Present: C. Powell, M. Hutchinson, R. Tyre, G. Mariorenzi, C. Crafts, D. Minto. Also present were guests from RI Association of Conservation Commissions (see item III).

I. Motion to approve the Minutes – October 2002 meeting (Tyre, 2nd Mariorenzi) as revised, unanimously approved.

Revisions:

VI.1. Hutchinson.

VI.1. should read 2002-2003.

II. Correspondence & Bills:

1. RI Natural History Survey – 2003 Distinguished Naturalist Award – solicitation for nominations.
2. Grow Smart RI Newsletter
3. Common Ground Newsletter

III. Request to address the Commission:

RI Assoc. of Conservation Commissions – Goeff DiCenso.

Re-establishment of RIACC born of frustration and isolation of individual Conservation Commissions. Met with other Commissions. 20 of 29 Commissions are members. Providence, E. Greenwich, Exeter, Pawtucket, Newport are among towns without commissions. Assistance from Massachusetts Association. Helped with organization. Have met with DEM director. Generated several proposals for the Conservation Commissions. Among them, conservation commissioner training program to run.

Formation of the Association to become recognized as authorities on conservation issues. Opening lines of communication with DEM, training program development and identifying towns with a need for commissions.

2nd annual meeting scheduled for May 24th, 2003. All day event, with 2 morning and 2 afternoon sessions. Some speakers already selected.

M. Hutchinson suggested some coordination of information collection and dissemination with RI Land Trust Council. DiCenso agreed that some coordination is valuable, but with the understanding that the RIACC represents community appointed conservation officials.

JCC recommends that councils be educated about benefits and advisory role of CCs, concept of property “taking,” that CCs be considered proactive rather than reactive groups. Numerous other suggestions for RIACC activities including support for open space protection, DEM, etc.

IV. CRMC & RIDEM

1. CRMC - Notice- Postponement of High Street ROW full Council meeting, no new date set.

V. Old Business:

1. Recreation, Conservation & Open Space Plan – No progress to date (C. Powell). Consider possibility of finding a writer to help finish plan.
2. Water Protection Committee – Identified some properties for consideration for purchase by the town (C. Powell).
3. Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup – R. Tyre recommends reschedule North Road cleanup. Too much foliage still to clean.
4. Proposed Highway Barn site at Ft. Wetherill. After discussion of the proposal at two meetings, CC finds no compelling reason to change its original position that the most appropriate site for the highway barn is Lot 47/Transfer Station. CC stands by its original recommendation supported by previous town appointed committees and the Jamestown Planning Commission. Motion to that effect (Tyre, 2nd Minto) unanimously approved.
5. Memo to Town Administrator re: 2002-2003 CC budget.
6. CC member (Minto and Tyre) expiration of terms.
7. CC Letter to Zoning re: DiBiase Section 308 variance request. Continued to next meeting on November 18th.

VI. New Business:

1. Implications of Town Charter changes for the commission. Clarification required, e.g. retroactive term limits and so forth.
2. Trail signs ready.

Motion to adjourn (Tyre, 2nd Hutchinson) unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: December 10th, 2002, 7:00 PM, Town Hall.