

Kendra Tanguay

From: Daniel Madnick
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 6:53 PM
To: Kendra Tanguay
Cc: Erin Liese
Subject: May 5th - Richmond Environmental Hazard and Resiliency Commission
Attachments: Climate_resiliency_commission_ordinance_draft3.docx

Kendra,

Information for the May 5th agenda as voted on by the TC during tonight's meeting. I think this commission could consolidate and collaborate to address some of the issues brought up during public forum regarding dead trees in Richmond. I also believe this entity could take advantage of the Forestry Initiatives by RIDEM.

The idea is to set up a volunteer group of subject matter experts that can help provide residents with useful information regarding climate hazards, help the town craft policies to prevent loss of life/property, and to assist in the administration and revision of the HMP. This draft includes all comments and input from previous council discussion.

Dan Madnick

Chapter 4.XX Richmond Environmental Hazard and Resiliency Commission

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4.XX.010. Establishment

There is hereby established a Richmond Environmental Hazard and Resiliency Commission, heretofore known as "The REHR Commission".

4.XX.020. Membership and Appointment – Terms of office.

A. The REHR Commission shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Town Council. At least four (4) of the members shall have scientific, technical or engineering backgrounds or experience, with preference given to environmental or life sciences. Initial appointees shall be for the following terms: four (4) shall be appointed for three-year terms and three (3) shall be appointed for two-year terms. Thereafter, as terms expire, appointments, shall be made in January and shall be for terms of three (3) years. The members need not be Richmond residents, but preference on the commission shall be given to Richmond residents. A maximum of three (3) non-residents may be appointed to the commission.

B. The commission may request the presence of any town staff to seek input and guidance on any topic within the commission duties.

4.XX.030. Compensation.

Members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

4.XX.040. Officers.

The Commission shall organize by electing a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary.

4.XX.050. Duties.

A. The duties of the REHR Commission shall be to study and analyze issues and impacts associated with severe weather events and other environmental hazards, including but not limited to hurricanes, floods, wildfires, drought, deforestation, and severe winter storms.

The Commission shall also develop strategies, policies, and plans for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of such events and hazards. Any strategies, policies, and plans for mitigating severe weather related events shall be presented to the Town Council for consideration.

B. The Commission shall undertake efforts and actions to preserve and improve the quality of life for Richmond residents and reduce or eliminate future detrimental environmental effects on the community that is within the capacity of local policies and actions. In addition, the Commission shall undertake to disseminate information to Town residents concerning the aforesaid impacts of climate change and global warming and the Town's strategies, policies and plans for mitigation of these impacts.

4.XX.060 Hazard Mitigation Plan

A. The Hazard Mitigation plan approved by Richmond Town Council, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 in August of 2022, and all subsequent amendments to the plan that are adopted by the Town Council, are hereby incorporated by reference.

B. The Climate Resiliency Commission shall monitor the Hazard Mitigation Plan and/or make recommendations for implementation pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

4.XX.070 Meetings, records and annual report.

A. The Commission shall hold regular meetings, preferably monthly, which shall be open to the public. Special meetings shall be held at the call of the Chair or upon the request of four (4) of the members.

B. Any person or his duly constituted representative shall be entitled to appear and be heard on any matter before the Commission.

C. All records of Commission proceedings, resolutions and actions shall be open to public view, and the Commission shall forward an annual report of its actions and meetings to the Town Clerk's office.

D. The Commission shall prepare and provide the Town Council an annual report

4.XX.080 Technical Assistance.

Within the limits of the funds appropriated to it and subject to the approval of the Town Council, the Commission may engage technical or clerical assistance to aid in the discharge of its duties. These duties include but are not limited to amending the Hazard Mitigation Plan and seeking grant opportunities for the municipality.

4.XX.090 Cooperative Agreements.

The Commission may recommend to the Town Council to enter into cooperative agreements with any city, town, state, regional or federal agency or private organization to undertake studies deemed to be in the interest of the Town including cooperative agreements with cities or towns in neighboring states where problems of mutual or common interest are deemed to exist. The Commission may be authorized to accept technical and financial assistance for the commission or the municipality from other public agencies or private organizations subject to the approval of the Town Council.

4.XX.100 Additional Funding.

To aid in the discharge of its duties, the Commission may, subject to the approval of the Town Council, seek funding or grant monies from private sources or local, state, and federal government