

Town of Richmond
Planning Board Public Hearing/Meeting
Veteran's Hall

January 27, 7:00 PM

Final

Member Present	Member Absent
Doug Smith (Chairman)	Doug Bersaw (Selectman Rep)
Lisa Traeger (Secretary)	William Daniels (Alt Selectman Rep)
Doug Bersaw (Selectman Rep)	Lloyd Condon (Alternate)
Greg Butko	Andrew Seamans (Alternate)
Brad Grinstead	Melissa Axtman (Alternate)
	Joe Norman

Public: Dick Drew, Susan Perry, Lenny Solomoen, Fran Heap, Sandra Auvil

Public Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM By Doug Smith.

- 1) Mail: No Mail
- 2) Hearing: Add Definition to Article 17: NORMAL LANDSCAPING means the on-site alteration and contouring of the land exclusively devoted to improving the functional utility and planting of the grounds.
 - a) Doug Smith opened the hearing by discussing procedure/rules for a hearing as posted on the Planning Board Procedures. He discussed a transcription error that led to a second public hearing
 - i) Primary concerns of the public included:
 - i. Not enough wet land protection, definition should be more finely tuned and add further protection,
 - (i) The board countered this is a definition not the ordinance.
 - ii. Definition could be read to only allow Wetland plants and that other plantings could be covered by allowed Agriculture.
 - (i) Board replied there is more to landscaping than agriculture and the definition was written not to restrict landscaping on wetlands to only wetland specific plantings.
 - iii. It was suggested that wetland conservation buffers shouldn't be touched at all.
 - iv. Concern was raised about the lack of inspectors in town to verify adherence to the wetland ordinances as private people are not allowed to trespass to verify.
 - v. Education may be a better solution vs. more stringent ordinances.
 - vi. It was suggested the definition be withdrawn until next year and be rewritten.
 - ii) Hearing closed at 7:39 and discussion on the definition commenced.
- 3) Discussion of Normal Landscaping definition
 - a) Traeger made a motion to approve definition as written: Grinstead seconded. Discussion included some other townships definitions as the state doesn't have a definition in the RSA's
 - i) Vote to approve: Traeger, Yes; Butko, Yes; Grinstead, Yes; Smith, Yes; Motion carries, definition will appear on the ballot.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Minutes

- i) Motion to accept minutes as written for January 20, 2026, made by Traeger, seconded by Grinstead, All in favor, minutes accepted as revised.
 - ii) Motion to accept minutes as written for January 13, 2026, made by Doug Bersaw,
 - b) The Zoning Ordinance book update is still on hold until the numbering issues are fully researched.
 - c) Master Plan Survey Results review continued. The Board has reviewed results through question 22. The Board will continue to review these results over the next few weeks.
- 5) Other.
- a) Motion to adjourn by Traeger; seconded by Grinstead, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 7:49PM,

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Traeger