

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

CC: Justin Graham, Program Manager, RiseVT

DATE: August 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Town of Richmond Recreation Committee appointments

Enclosed for your consideration are letters of interest for the Recreation Committee from the following people:

- Ashley Hanlon (Richmond resident)
- Stefani Hartsfield (Richmond resident)
- Mark Fausel (Richmond resident)
- Martha Nye (Richmond resident)
- Chrissy Keating (Bolton resident)

To provide background, the overall goal of the Town of Richmond Recreation Committee is to help create programs that would promote the recreation opportunities available within Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington. This would include putting together recreation programs, wellness programs, and methods to improve park facilities to promote recreation and well-being. This committee would also seek grant opportunities to fund projects.

The work of the Recreation Committee could coincide with the data collected from the DASH Grant. This committee could help fill identified gaps in services provided by the town and by community organizations.

The Recreation Committee consists of up to seven full-time members. Of the seven member positions, one of the positions is restricted to Bolton residents, and one of the positions is restricted to Huntington residents. Currently, there are two full-time Recreation Committee members; both members are Richmond residents with three-year terms that began in May, 2020.

The Recreation Committee has not held regular meetings in recent history due to a lack of quorum. If the Selectboard appoints all of the applicants, this committee would be able to hold regular meetings (barring any absences that would prevent a quorum from meeting). In addition, applicant Chrissy Keating would serve as the Bolton representative if appointed.

In previous discussions regarding the Recreation Committee in front of the Selectboard, it was recommended that any future Richmond-resident appointees would hold either two-year or one-year terms in order maintain continuity, and that Bolton and Huntington representatives would hold two-year terms.

I recommend that the Selectboard appoints one Richmond resident to a two-year term and at least two Richmond residents to one-year terms. Since there are more applicants than open seats, the Selectboard has the option to amend the membership component of the committee charge to

include more members, and/or to include alternate members to the committee, in order to encourage participation among all interested applicants. If the Selectboard chooses to expand the number of seats on the committee, I recommend that the Selectboard clarifies that these new seats and the unrestricted seats are open to the public at-large, in order to encourage participation among Bolton and Huntington residents.

I recommend the appointment of the following applicants for the following reasons:

- Chrissy Keating, as Bolton's Representative
- Mark Fausel, because as a current Planning Commission member, he would also serve as a liaison between the Planning Commission and the Recreation Committee

To facilitate action, I have prepared the following draft motion:

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, move to appoint [insert applicant's name] and Chrissy Keating to two-year terms on the Town of Richmond Recreation Committee, and to appoint [insert applicants' names] to one-year terms on the Town of Richmond Recreation Committee.*



Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>

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**Re: [New Deadline] Town of Richmond Recreation Committee**

1 message

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**mlfausel@aol.com** <mlfausel@aol.com>  
To: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 9:56 PM

Hi Ravi,  
With my recent remission from the housing committee, I would like to express my interest in the rec committee.  
Thanks,  
Mark

*Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone*



Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>

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## Recreation Committee Application

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**Martha Nye** <martha3@gmavt.net>  
To: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 9:13 AM

Dear Ravi,  
I would like to apply to be on the Richmond Recreation Committee.  
All the best,  
Martha

Sent from my iPad

# STEFANI HARTSFIELD

65 Esplanade, Richmond VT 05477 · 802.355.6608

[Hartsfield3@gmail.com](mailto:Hartsfield3@gmail.com) · [www.linkedin.com/in/stefani-hartsfield-56439636](http://www.linkedin.com/in/stefani-hartsfield-56439636) · [@hartsfield\\_vt](https://twitter.com/hartsfield_vt)

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Josh Arneson  
Town Manager  
Town of Richmond  
203 Bridge Street  
Richmond, VT 05477

Dear Josh,

I am submitting this letter as my application to be a member of the Richmond Recreation Committee. In my work with several town initiatives and recent work with Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner, I am excited about the opportunity for the Recreation Committee to have some new energy and revitalization in addition to the existing legacy of knowledge that exists.

As a Richmond resident for almost 20 years, and raising my family here, I take great pride in calling Richmond home. I know that 20 years pales in comparison to the families who have been here for generations and I cherish the opportunities I have had in these 20 years to form friendships and relationships with people from many representations of the Richmond community. Living in the heart of the village allows me the pleasure to watch the activities, landscape, businesses and demographics of the town change over time. Community health and well-being is what I have dedicated my career to by working with underserved populations in human services and healthcare. I have worked with seniors living in low income housing, people who live with disabilities, people who live well below the federal poverty line and need support to meet the basic needs of life and in education. I find that the common thread for success in however a community is defined is communication. I have a strong familiarity with the wonderful, multiple systems in Vermont that are designed to help people of all ages, abilities and income levels. I am also familiar with how poorly designed these systems are at communicating with each other, both locally and nationally. I would like to be able to bring some of my expertise in solutions for communication to the Recreation Committee. To me, recreation and accessible opportunities in a town are what contribute to a thriving community.

For the last several years I have worked to bring several initiatives to Richmond and our collaborating towns to work towards a healthier, thriving community, with a strong backbone of inclusivity and mental health awareness being key factors. These initiatives include [RiseVT](#), [Community Outreach](#), the [Vermont Youth Project](#) and the [DASH](#) grant to our town. Community health and well-being are very important to me, as is my town. I am excited by the reinvigoration of the Recreation Committee and the leadership and vision that Ravi is bringing to the town. Now feels like the right time to innovate with the Recreation Committee and see how we can align with other town committees like Transportation, Housing, Planning Commission, Trails to make the Richmond Town Plan come alive. In addition, we have so many fantastic groups and organizations in this town offering a multitude of opportunities. To me, it is not a lack of recreational or well-being options, it is how to create awareness and accessibility to all members of our community. I have also joined existing groups like the Richmond Fourth of July Committee who need help as longtime volunteers are aging out and we know that the events and programs we all have come to love cannot continue without new energy and support, but are not seeing the same level of volunteerism as in past decades. This town is made up of an incredible multigenerational group of people, both new to Richmond and with legacy knowledge, I am interested in harnessing that creativity and making sure everyone can access it in a way that benefits everyone. And that we can welcome people from outside of Richmond to enjoy our assets in a respectful way.

I was so inspired by the Town Visioning process that happened about 5 years ago...but it needs continued support. I am always grateful and supportive of Pete Gosselin and his team and am willing to learn from the experts on town staff, as I have from many years collaborating with Linda Parent in her many roles in the town. I would like to learn from the existing Recreation Committee and hear their plans and goals to see how we can all move forward for the best interests of the town. I am excited to see how we can incorporate the DASH grant research and remaining funds into this alignment work and support the Select Board and Planning Commission around the best use of town facilities to support the incredible number of existing opportunities we have in Richmond to make awareness and access easier for all Richmond residents.

Thank you for considering my application. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Stefani Hartsfield*

Stefani Hartsfield

[hartsfield3@gmail.com](mailto:hartsfield3@gmail.com)

802.355.6608

65 Esplanade

Richmond, VT 05477

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**Ashley Hanlon**

240 Valley View Rd  
Richmond, VT 05477  
802-323-3140  
hanlon.ashley.e@gmail.com

2nd, August 2020

Dear Ravi and the Town of Richmond,

I have been working as the town's grant specialist with a focus of working with the DASH grant. This work has allowed me to integrate into this wonderful community in a unique way that has prompted me to continue my involvement. With that being said, I would like to express my interest in joining the Richmond Recreation Committee.

Sincerely,

**Ashley Hanlon**



Ravi Venkataraman &lt;rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov&gt;

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**Richmond Recreation Committee**

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**Chrissy Keating** <ckeating@madriver.com>  
To: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 9:26 PM

Hello Ravi,

I wanted to share my interest in joining the Richmond Recreation Committee as a Bolton representative.

I have lived and recreated with my husband in the Bolton and Richmond community since 2004.

We are avid skiers at Bolton Valley and mountain bikers at Cochran's and Chamberlain Hill.

We have canoed countless times down the Winooski.

We now have a kiddo who will start Kindergarten at RES this year who also skis and bikes with us.

As a Bolton resident, I also know many of the hidden gems in our community..many of which were shared by long time Bolton residents.

We are closely connected to both communities because of our recreational pursuits.

In my professional life, I work in community health for UVMMC. I run a statewide chronic disease self-management program. We offer free programs to help people manage their diabetes, chronic pain, and chronic disease. In my work, I am closely connected to RiseVT as well.

In order to keep this brief, I will stop there. I hope this snapshot will give you an idea of what I can bring to the table.

I have some questions for you as well:

-What is the commitment for this committee? Meetings, etc?

-What are the expectations for members?

-What is the goal of the committee?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,  
Chrissy Keating