

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: August 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Grant

During the July 27, 2021 Recreation Committee Meeting, the Recreation Committee voted to pursue a Vermont Outdoor Recreation Collaborative (VOREC) grant for \$150,000. These grant funds would be used for improvements to Volunteers Green, specifically for:

- Replacing the playground--The play structures and equipment would be replaced, and the rubber matting the Town received as a donation from Ben & Jerry's would be installed as grounding for the play equipment--and;
- Rehabilitating the bandshell.

The VOREC Grant is from the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The purposes of the grant program are to grow outdoor recreation-related businesses, to increase widespread participation in outdoor recreation, and to improve existing outdoor recreation resources. Capital projects--like outdoor recreation infrastructure improvements--are eligible activities for the grant. More information about the VOREC Grant program can be found on the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation website: [VOREC Community Grant Program | Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation \(vermont.gov\)](#).

Currently, the Recreation Committee is working on the Letter of Interest form for the grant program. The Letter of Interest form is due August 27, 2021. Based on this form, the town would be invited to apply for the grant on September 27, 2021.

If the town is awarded the grant, the project would begin in April 2022. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2023.

The VOREC Grant program has no required match. However, VOREC advises providing a grant match to show that the town is invested in the success of the project. I have asked the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation for additional information about the voluntary match. These details will be provided to you for discussion before the Town applies for the grant next month, if we are invited to do so.

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

I, _____, move to approving pursuing the 2021 Vermont Outdoor Recreation Collaborative grant for \$150,000 for improvements to Volunteers Green.