

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: October 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Transportation Committee Membership and Appointments

Background

The Selectboard established the Transportation Committee in October 2019. When the Transportation Committee was established:

- Membership was set at five members with goal of expanding to seven members,
- Of the five members, one is to be a representative from Western Slopes Business Association,
- The potential two members to be added would be representatives from the Planning Commission,
- The Selectboard appointed four members, and
- The Selectboard did not set term limits on those four members.

Letters of Interest

On October 12, 2020, I posted on Front Porch Forum a call for three volunteers to serve on the Transportation Committee. This information was reposted on October 20, 2020. The call for letters of interest closed on October 23, 2020. I received five letters of interest in this time, and of these five applicants, one withdrew their application.

During the October 26, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting, the committee reviewed the letters of interest from the following applicants:

- Mark Damico
- James Floyd
- Allen Knowles
- Samantha Peikes

I have reached out to the Planning Commission and WSBA numerous times in the past few months for members, and received no interest.

Current Membership

Listed are all the current Transportation Committee members:

- Cathleen Gent
- Erik Filkorn
- Chris Cole
- Jon Kart

All four members have indicated interest in continuing to serve on the committee.

The Committee's Recommendations to the Selectboard

Based on the slate of applicants and the current terms regarding membership of the Transportation Committee, the committee recommended the following to the Selectboard during its October 26, 2020 meeting:

1. The Transportation Committee recommends that the Selectboard change the membership of the Transportation Committee to seven members, with six members from the public at-large and one member from the Planning Commission.
2. The Transportation Committee recommends the appointment of Cathleen Gent, Erik Filkorn, Chris Cole, and James Floyd to the Transportation Committee for terms ending in May 2023.
3. The Transportation Committee recommends the appointment of Mark Damico, Allen Knowles, and Jon Kart to the Transportation Committee for terms ending in May 2022.

The October 26, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting minutes and the applicants' letters of interest are enclosed for your consideration.

Draft Motions

I have prepared the following draft motions to facilitate action by the Selectboard:

To change the Membership Requirements

I, _____, move to change the membership of the Transportation Committee to seven members, with six members from the public at-large and one member from the Planning Commission.

Appointments

I, _____, move to appoint Cathleen Gent, Erik Filkorn, Chris Cole, and James Floyd to the Transportation Committee for terms ending in May 2023, and Mark Damico, Allen Knowles, and Jon Kart to the Transportation Committee for terms ending in May 2022.



Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>

Re: Update from the Richmond Transportation Committee

3 messages

Allen Knowles <knowles.allen3@gmail.com>
To: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Sun, Oct 18, 2020 at 9:55 AM

Hello,

I recently moved to Richmond and am interested in joining the Richmond Transportation Committee. My interests/biases are in a walkable/bikeable community. How do I proceed?

Thank you,
Allen Knowles
[112 E Main St, Richmond, VT 05477-4417](#)
knowles.allen3@gmail.com
cell 716-378-2450

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Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>
To: Allen Knowles <knowles.allen3@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 1:10 PM

Thanks, Allen. I'll put this email on file as your letter of interest. To help the Selectboard with their decision, would you provide more information about your background and interests?

Thanks,

Ravi

Ravi Venkataraman, AICP (he/him)
Town Planner
Town of Richmond
203 Bridge St.
Richmond, VT 05477
802-434-2430
<http://www.richmondvt.gov/>

To note: All emails, and any respective attachments to the Town may be considered public records and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Open Public Records Act.

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Allen Knowles <knowles.allen3@gmail.com>
To: Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>

Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 7:51 AM

Background and interests:

Why Vermont from upstate NY? In short, family. Prior residence of 30 years was the Village of Allegany, NY.
Why Richmond? Proximity to family in Williston and Middlebury and we found a "fixer-upper" to purchase and live in while we rehab it.
Professional status: Retired family physician; for the past few years we have been involved with a daughter and son-in-law in acquiring, improving and managing rental properties.
My wife is a retired LPN.

Interest in transportation: First, I participate and have formed opinions based on my experience. I do not have expert knowledge. I am a lifelong cyclist and my wife and I use bicycles for transportation insofar as is possible. This includes errands, touring, recreation, and in the past commuting. My longest tour was Allegany to Newfoundland and back last year, about 3600 miles (there were ferries involved). The prior year I rode around Lakes Huron and Superior. This year Covid precluded a tour but I still have about 4,000 miles of riding. I have experience of the infrastructure for bicycle transportation in NYS, PA, MA, ME, NH, VT, OR, ID, ON, QC, NS, NB, PE, and NL. I have ridden across VT a couple of times. Lately I have sampled the ways to bike from Richmond to stores at Tafts Corners, the Key Bank in S. Burlington, Waterbury, and so forth. We also walk locally to stores, the post office, the town drop box, etc.

Second, there are the issues of health and the environment, both of which I think can benefit from more walking, bicycling and E-bikes and less use of large motor vehicles. In truth, I bike because it is fun, but cities such as Portland, OR and European countries have found that if infrastructure makes biking easy and safe, it is used much more.

And lastly, I am not a "simplist". I do not think there is some easy answer to all this, and we cannot just banish cars. There are multiple and sometimes contrary transportation needs, and the best solutions are likely to be grounded in local detail. I think I have useful things to say about what works for the cyclist and the pedestrian. But I do own a car. Darn it.

Enough? Too much?

Allen



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Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>

RE: Open Seats on Richmond Town Boards

James Floyd <jzander@gmail.com>
To: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 5:30 AM

Hello Ravi,

I am writing to you to express my interest in filling one of the vacant positions on the Transportation Committee. I have lived in Richmond for the majority of my life and currently live here with my spouse and three children. Richmond has evolved quite a bit in recent years and I am excited for its prospects for the future. An integral part of the town's appeal is its accessibility to Burlington and nearby towns. I am very interested in helping to keep that in tact, while providing ideas and input for future improvements. I see opportunities to lessen the reliance on motorized transportation for trips to downtown and the schools, as well as easing access to public transportation.

In my current profession ([OnLogic](#)), I am valued for my ideation and driver of positive change. I am excited at the premise of leveraging these strengths to improve my town.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Floyd
802 829 2164



Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>

Open Seats on Richmond Town Boards

Mark <markd14@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 6:31 PM

To: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Hi Ravi,

I'm writing to express my interest in serving on the Planning Commission and / or the transportation committee.

I have a degree in Landscape Architecture and site planning from Cornell University and have been involved in countless master planning projects including streetscape design and implementation.

What are the anticipated time and meeting commitments?

Best regards,
Mark

Mark Damico
[420 Snipe Ireland Rd, Richmond, VT 05477](#)
802.558.1517
www.designingvermont.com



Ravi Venkataraman <rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov>

Richmond Transportation Committee

Samantha Peikes <speikes96@gmail.com>
To: rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov

Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 3:59 PM

Hi Ravi,

My name is Samantha Peikes. I intern with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission in Montpelier and am interested in bike and pedestrian transportation planning. I was wondering if I could participate in the Richmond Transportation Committee? Thank you!

Best,

Samantha Peikes