

Selectboard Minutes

3/22/2021

Members Present by Zoom: Christine Werneke, David Sander, Bard Hill, Cody Quattrocci, June Heston

Members Absent: none

Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kyle Kapitanski, acting Police Chief; Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner; Pete Gosselin, Road Foreman; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Keith Osborne, Zoning Administrative Officer; the meeting was recorded for MMCTV 15, also present: Lisa Truchon, Judy Rosovsky, Colin Low, Wright Preston, Gabriel Firman, Brad Lane, Kate, Wayne Cota, Jon Kart, Lisa Curtis, Kate Gluck, Mark Moultroup, Brad Lang, Cara LaBounty, Ethan Tapper, Becy Vignealut, Allen Knowles, David Thomas, Frances Thomas, Gary's iPad, Karen Yaggy, Don Yaggy, Martha Marciel, Martha Nye, Peter Swaine, Rod West, Steph Kamin, Dean Kamin, Sue Roberge, Susanne Parent, Tracy Rosen, Mary Houle.

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

Welcome by Christine Werneke: This is a special meeting as we are a bit off the usual schedule for March. Please remember to stay muted when you are not speaking.

Public Comment: None

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: Josh Arneson asked to add an update on the Dugway Road Repair. Item will be added as "q" at the end of the agenda

II. Items for Presentation of Discussion with those present

a) Discussion of the re-appraisal process

Josh Arneson: The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) measures the average assessed value of properties as a percentage of recent sales of properties. If that number drops below 85% the State mandates that the Town conduct a reappraisal. Currently the Richmond CLA is at 85.65%. There will be a new CLA calculated for 2021 and it is expected to drop below the 85% threshold. The Town is scheduled to begin a re-appraisal in July of 2021. There have been some concerns about how the process will be conducted while restrictions are still in place for COVID-19. There have also been concerns on if the process will be equitable as we are seeing a hot real-estate market in Richmond which may, or may not be creating a bubble of increased real estate costs.

Lisa Truchon: The CLA is calculated using the past three years of sales. The recent individual years have been below 85% as single years. The CLA is used to adjust education taxes. If Education tax is \$1, you are divided by 80% and effective tax rate is \$1.25. Some properties are overvalued and some are undervalued and the re-appraisal helps to create real values for properties. The housing market has been hot for the past three years. An interior video system similar to a baby monitor will be used to allow the

appraisers to see the interior of a home without actually having to go into the home. The homeowner will bring the device into their house so the appraiser can view the interior without going inside the home. This device is currently in use in other towns and it has worked well.

June Heston: I am concerned that we are not at the threshold to do the reassessment and we are proceeding with this too early. People have lost income and some people may fear that their property taxes may go up. I feel it is not the year to do a reassessment because values are overstated. When will we have hard data on sales in 2020 and 2021? I feel both years may have inflated prices.

Lisa Truchon: The education tax increases as CLA decreases. We will not calculate values until after April 21, 2023. At that time we should be able to see if the increased prices are a bubble. I expect that in January you will be under orders to re-appraise due to a dropping CLA because the new sales are at a higher price.

June Heston expressed that she still had concerns and Lisa Truchon said she will send June Heston a report to help explain the CLA and current prices in more detail.

Cara LaBounty: Is the State using the CLA to level out prices? Tax rates adjust and property values adjust and the CLA levels everyone out to be 100%.

Lisa Truchon: The CLA is dropping and the tax liability will go up.

Cara LaBounty: The point of the CLA is to adjust properties to where they should be.

Lisa Truchon: The State is looking to create a fair market share so all towns are paying their fair share across the state. Yes, the CLA is used to bring prices to fair market value.

Cara LaBounty: What happens with appeals? We don't have access to lister cards to show comps due to the Town Center being closed.

Lisa Truchon: We would hold meetings virtually and share all the info that we have. People have been able to work around holding meetings virtually and gathering information. People were still able to get any information that they wanted and needed. If they did not have what they needed we would adjourn the hearing until they could get what they needed.

Cara LaBounty: I was the one person who appealed in Richmond and it was difficult to get all the information. There were errors made that affected me for months. I am strongly opposed to a Town wide reappraisal at this point.

June Heston: I would like to have more information on this process to understand if those values will include prices that may be a bubble.

Christine Werneke: We need some more time and documents to answer all the questions.

Bard Hill: We should address pros and cons on delaying when we return to this.

Lisa Truchon: Please send me questions and I can respond.

b) Consideration of request for use of Conservation Reserve Fund for Andrews Community Forest tables and bench

Josh Arneson: This is the Eagle Scout project that was discussed at the last Selectboard meeting. The project is to install two picnic tables and a bench in the Andrews Community Forest. The Andrews Community Forest Committee voted to recommend the use of \$500 of Conservation Reserve Funds for this project. Prior to the last meeting it was communicated to me that the funds were to come from the Andrews Forest Fund, but this was not the case. To correct this, the Conservation Commission recently voted to recommend the use of \$500 from the Conservation Reserve Fund. It is now up to the Selectboard to consider approving this expenditure.

Bard, moved to approve the use of \$500 from the Conservation Reserve Fund for the construction of two picnic tables and a bench for the Andrew's Community Forest. June Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

c) Consideration of prohibiting overweight vehicles on Dugway and Kenyon Roads

Josh Arneson: This topic has been discussed at the past two Selectboard meetings. It appears that there are two options for prohibiting overweight vehicles on Dugway Rd. and Kenyon Rd. Both involve amending the overweight permit to exclude the roads from use by overweight vehicles even with a permit.

Option 1:

Exclude the roads from the overweight permit with the same language as last year which would prohibit vehicles over 24,000 pounds from accessing the roads, with an exception made for overweight vehicle with business on that road.

Option 2:

Adopt the following language which was written by our attorney based on a suggested approach proposed by Acting Police Chief Kyle Kapitanski:

Truck-tractor-semitrailer combinations having a combined gross weight of 36,000 pounds or greater and Truck-tractor-trailer combinations having a combined gross weight of 36,000 pounds or greater are prohibited from traveling on Dugway Rd. and Kenyon Rd. An exception will be made for vehicles conducting business on Dugway Rd. or Kenyon Rd.

At the last meeting we discussed this language and had concerns that this may not be possible to adopt without approval by the Secretary of Transportation. We checked with our attorney and because the basis of the limitation is still weight we do not need approval from the Secretary of Transportation.

Using this language would not prohibit all trucks, just tractor trailers over 36,000 pounds would be prohibited.

Kate Gluck: I wanted to know how much of an added expense there would be to truckers who use these roads. I did some calculations to try to figure this out. Dugway is 3.2 miles and a detour is 6.5 miles. If you drive both routes at the posted speed limit it is only a difference of one minute between the routes. Speeding is a main concern with regards to larger trucks on these roads.

Gary: I have been a member of this town for many decades. Years ago there was a big upgrade to Kenyon Rd. and I was adamant that this had to stay open for trucking. The Selectboard at the time agreed to keep it open for trucks. It feels like we are locals and we are being pushed out by people who are moving into this area. I don't want to have to go through the village with a large truck when I can go on Kenyon Rd.

Wayne Cota: I am a log trucker who does a lot of business in Richmond and uses the Dugway Rd. All of our drivers are instructed to do 20-25 miles per hour. We do not like going across the bridge in Richmond. Fuel cost is going up and we are trying to save fuel. I am afraid that if these roads are restricted then what road will be next.

Tracy Rosen: I have a question for Josh, with Option A and Option B, how would that affect Wayne's trucks loaded or empty?

Discussion included that either option would prohibit Wayne's trucks loaded or unloaded.

Dean Kamin: There are many people on Kenyon Rd. who would like to prohibit the trucks from the road.

Brad Lane: I have a logging, firewood, and excavating company that I operate off of Kenyon Rd. I have never come close to having an incident with anyone on the road. I understand that pedestrians may have a problem with the trucks but I have had closer calls on main roads than on Kenyon Rd. I don't feel larger trucks are having a large impact on Kenyon Rd.

June Heston: This issue arose before my time on the Selectboard so I'd like to know more about why it came up initially and I want to hear more from Acting Chief Kapitanski regarding enforcement.

David Sander: This began when we had to close Dugway Rd. due to the washout. The residents appreciated the lack of trucks on the road.

Bard Hill: Residents of both roads were concerned about the size and speed of large vehicles on the roads.

David Sander: I live on Kenyon Rd. and I have never had a problem with any of the trucks using the gravel pit. But I have had problems with large tractor trailers.

Kyle Kapitanski: I have concerns about the ability of Richmond Police to enforce either option as they are both based on weight and this type of stop can take over an hour to complete. I also have an issue that the real concern is the long trucks on the road and we are trying to prohibit based on weight, not on length of truck.

Martha Marciel: We're on Dugway Rd. and one of the complexities is the long vehicles having to share the road with other drives as well as parked cars taking up portions of the traveled portion of the road. There is not a wide shoulder due to the ditching on the road.

Ethan Tapper: I am the Chittenden County Forester and a resident on Dugway and I also run on the road. I am a little concerned about precedent setting and our working landscape. Some parts of the working landscape are easy to appreciate such as maple syrup and local firewood. Big log trucks may not be as appreciated but are part of the equation of the working landscape.

Cara LaBounty: We have pedestrians and bike traffic on all roads so you may have more requests if you limit heavy vehicles on Dugway Rd. and Kenyon Rd. If you pass these weight limits on any road in Richmond, what is the alternative route? Keeping the trucks on these roads and out of the village is safer.

There was a general discussion during which it was reviewed that overweight permits run from April 1 to the following March 31. If no action is taken tonight to amend the overweight permit that starts on April 1, 2021 then there cannot be any changes to the overweight permit until the next permit which would begin on April 1, 2022 .

David Sander: I don't feel either solution is adequate as there are competing good interests.

Kate Gluck: More speeding enforcement may be a good solution.

Josh Arneson read a statement from Dugway resident Dave Savoie who was in favor of closing the roads to large trucks for safety.

Christine Werneke: I understand that these large trucks can be intimidating to pedestrian and bikers. But there has also been a lot of feedback from the businesses that need to use these roads. I would advise truckers to be mindful of people in the area.

Bard Hill: If there is anything else we can do to mitigate the speed then we should do what we can to modify behavior.

Christine Werneke: I'd also like to hear from the truckers to see what they think can be done to make the roads safer.

Gary: There are certain people out there who will break the rules. The good truckers are driving the roads appropriately. Oftentimes it is the cars that are driving poorly.

d) Consideration of setting a hearing date for Interim Bylaws allowing parklets

Ravi Venkataraman: This is exploratory and was prompted by a proposal by Gabe Firman and Lisa Curtis. They are proposing a parklet that will take up four parking spaces in front of Hatchet and Sweet Simone's. Town staff did not find any major concerns. If the Selectboard would like to consider allowing this parklet, then an interim bylaw will need to be established for the parklet to be approved after the interim bylaw is approved.

Bard Hill: I would like to hear from Lisa and Gabe more on this topic with respects to feedback they have from other businesses in the area.

Lisa Curtis: I would like to do this so it is a better summer, and a place for people to gather together outside. I know taking away parking is not ideal when there is already a concern about adequate parking. My coffee shop is very affected by not having parking close by because it is a quick stop. People are willing to walk to other businesses because they will stay there longer.

Gabe Firman: We have well over 100 parking spaces in the Bridge St. area. The benefits of having this seating will outweigh the lost parking spaces. As we move back toward normalcy people may feel more comfortable accessing our businesses via outdoor seating. Also, capacity will be limited inside to this will help. Losing four parking spaces for the summer does not strike me as a huge deal.

June Heston: We have been talking about parking for over 10 years and we still hear about it often. I do have concerns about what other business would say and we need to hear from all of them.

Gabe Firman: The priority in my mind is keeping businesses open. This is a short-term thing that will lead to long term vibrancy.

Bard Hill: Public and private interests are intersecting. As Selectboard members we are obligated to ask the other businesses on the street. I would also like you to be aware that there is a Parking Committee working on parking issues in Richmond.

Cody Quattrocchi: I would like to hear from other businesses on the street.

David Sander: I am initially in favor of this as I think those parking spaces are more hazardous as parking spaces than as a parklet.

June Heston: The Parking Committee is primarily focused on recreational parking.

Bard Hill: That is fair. One of our asks of the State is to add parking on Rt. 2.

Gabe Firman: This idea was spurred by watching other communities add this for their businesses. Burlington and Montpelier did this to help their communities. I did not want to be the leader of this but watching other communities usher this in inspired me bring it up.

Mary Houle: First, last year the Selectboard looked at setting up a fee basis for parking. Second, is this a lease for the parklet or is it free. Third, where are the people eating at these tables going to park?

Gabe Firman: We have not discussed a lease.

Ravi Venkataraman: When I did research into Burlington and Montpelier there was not a lease but there is typically an application fee involved. Pete and Kendall would need to sign off on these applications.

Lisa Curtis: None of the spots in front of any of the businesses are designated for any specific business so there would not be a designated place for these customers to park.

Becky Vigneault: I have been a Richmond resident for 36 years and parking has been an issue the whole time. I am concerned about elderly people having parking close to the food shelf.

Cody Quattrocchi: Is public parking available at the church on Rt. 2?

Bard Hill: That is private.

Gabe Firman: When we spoke with Denise, she echoed similar concerns about parking. There are 16 diagonal spaces but there are more than that in the area. Denise proposed putting up signage in front of her shop and the food shelf to designate those parking spots for only those businesses.

Lisa Curtis: There is no way for us to control who is parking where.

Christine Werneke: Would you consider signage in some spots that keeps spots open to people who need to park a little bit closer but are not necessarily handicapped, similar to expecting mom parking at the grocery store?

Gabe Firman: It is a valid idea and people are receptive to certain language restricting parking for certain people. Finding parking spaces is the job of the Town. My job is to run a business, not find parking. I don't want this to be mired in a parking conversation.

Cara LaBounty: I am the Chair of the Parking Committee and we are focused outside of the village, but many people have asked me about parking in the village. How many tables are permitted for outside capacity for both Big Spruce, Hatchet, and Sweet Simone's?

Gabe Firman: We are allotted for 47 or 50 outdoor seats at the Big Spruce. We have about 10 outdoor seats at Hatchet.

Cara LaBounty: I don't think it is right for Gabe to talk to the other businesses, but someone from the Town should speak to them. I have heard from many businesses who are concerned. The parking issues are made by the Selectboard by allowing for more residential units on Bridge St. I am also concerned about safety. The speed limit is not posted at the entrances to Bridge St. from Rt. 2 or Cochran Rd. Please do not create more parking problems.

June Heston: I think we do not have enough information. We do need to hear from other business owners before we move forward with a public hearing.

Bard Hill: It makes sense to get more information. Perhaps we do it in a more structured way to reach out to each business to hear concerns and see if there is a way to mitigate those concerns. Dedicating public spaces from a business may not be feasible.

Pete Gosselin: We will be paving the upper section of Bridge St. this summer after July 1. The asphalt sidewalk will also be replaced. My comments on this project were related to safety, not in favor or against the project. I do have concerns about seating this close to the traveled section of the road.

Gabe Firman: Cara did have a lot of good points and I agree that it should not be me communicating with the neighbors. It may be better to have a Town official talk with them. We are a dinner service so we don't overlap with other businesses operating hours. The items can be removed for paving. I can already see this weaving its way through the halls or Richmond. I love this Town and if the Town and the people in it can't see that we are struggling then I don't know what to say. We are on the ropes. I am seeing other towns push and do what they can to help their core businesses.

Allen Knowles: The Transportation Committee has a project happening to try to address the problems of Bridge St. The public meeting is Thursday, April 8 at 7pm. Please attend and provide comments.

Gabe Firman: Pete also mentioned the five foot walkway and the upper block sidewalk is ten feet wide. We have a different seating arrangement planned against the building to keep pedestrian traffic flowing.

Christine Werneke: We need to do more research with other businesses via Town Staff and/or Selectboard members.

June Heston: I am happy to reach out to businesses.

Gabe Firman: This would go until the Fall because we are trying to capitalize on the Summer months and create a space where people feel comfortable.

e) Discussion of moving the drainage stone storage from 1301 Cochran Rd. to 2614 Cochran Rd. to create space for parking at 1301 Cochran Rd.

Pete Gosselin: This is a proposal to address parking along the river and Cochran Rd. We store material at 1301 Cochran Rd. It has become congested so this will help us address that. I want to move the material to the Town owned lot at 2614 Cochran Rd. This would give us one location for the drainage stone and would be efficient. There is enough area at 1301 to park over 30 vehicles. It would allow access to the river, Cochran Rd., and the river trail. It would require some brush cutting. The project could be done in-house and we have enough material for the parking area already. There is already open area on this site so it would not involve much tree cutting.

Cody Quattrocci: Which side of the road is the parking on?

Pete Gosselin: It is between Cochran Rd. and the River.

Bard Hill: This seems like an elegant solution to provide access to the trails and also provide an appropriate use of the 2614 lot. How soon do you need to start?

Pete Gosselin: We can start very quickly to use 2614. The parking will take some permits and some time but we should be able to have it ready at some point this summer.

Bard Hill: The sooner the better to impact parking this summer.

June Heston: I think this is an excellent idea. Thank you for your work on this.

Mary Houle: I support Pete's proposal.

Jon Kart: I would love to walk this area with Pete and I have done restoration there. This is good quality floodplain forest and we should talk about that before this happens. If this goes forward we will need money to clean up this area as people may litter.

Cara LaBounty: I want to thank Pete on all the work he has done for the Parking Advisory Committee. I understand Jon's concerns but Pete is not taking down many trees at all.

Pete Gosselin: I'm looking at using the current open footprint. I'd love to walk this area with Jon.

Christine Werneke: I agree that this is a good solution. Pete you have the ability to move forward.

Cara LaBounty: The Parking Advisory Committee will be at the Selectboard on April 19 to offer more solutions for parking.

f) Consideration of waiving permit fees for Permit 21-11*¹

Josh Arneson: This request comes from the Reaps and is related to a permit that was granted to the Reaps in 2017 for work at 36 Willis Farm Rd. which has since expired. Act 92 was put in place to allow for flexibility in permits due to expected delays in construction due to COVID-19. The Act allowed for two things to happen: 1) all permits held by the Town to be automatically extended and 2) for the Selectboard to extend permits held by citizens in the town. Mr. Venkataraman and the Zoning Administrative Officer at the time Suzanne Mantegna received advice on Act 92 that lead them to believe that all permits held by citizens were automatically extended. It turns out that is not the case and that the Reaps would have needed the Selectboard to extend this permit. Since that process was not followed, through no fault of the Reaps, we are recommending that the Selectboard approve a new permit for this project at no cost to the Reaps. The initial permit fee paid by the Reaps was \$3,834.60. If a fee were to be assessed for the new permit today it would be \$3,834.60.

Cara LaBounty: Can you clarify the timeline of the original permit?

Josh Arneson reviewed the timeline of the original permit. There was clarification that this will be a new permit that is identical to the original permit.

David moved to waive all zoning permit fees associated with permit number 21-11, to build 12,782 sq. ft of commercial space, parking lots, septic system, well and to remove the existing barn per DRB approval 15-001. June Seconded. Roll Call Vote Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

g) Update on selection of a consultant for the Zoning for Affordable Housing project and consideration of approval of Purchase Order for same

Ravi Venkataraman: In December of 2020 the Town received a grant to look into the housing needs of the community. To act on the grant the Town received two sealed bid

and decided to hire Place Sense to conduct the work. The bid can be approved by the Department Head but the purchase order has to be approved by the Selectboard.

Bard moved to approve PO# 4129 to Place Sense in an amount not to exceed \$22,000. David seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Cody did not vote. Motion passed.

h) Update on Rt. 2 reclamation (paving) project

Josh Arneson: This is a project that the State has planned to remove the old concrete road bed under Rt. 2, rebuild the road bed, and repave. VTrans has released the New Project Summary has been received by the Town. VTrans directed that all comments be sent to them via CCRPC. We met with CCRPC to discuss our comments and worked with them to provide comments to VTrans. The main concerns/requests of the Town are the following:

- 6 foot shoulders on the edge of the vehicle travel lanes to provide space for bikes and pedestrians.
- A left turn arrow for traffic turning left off of Bridge St. to head west on Rt. 2
- Creation of parking along Rt. 2 in the Village.

None of these concerns were adequately addressed in the New Project Summary and we have included that in the comments back to VTrans.

Bard Hill: I would add that the State used language like “where feasible” and that was not acceptable. We may need to escalate if the next reply is not satisfactory.

Jon Kart: I am a member of the Transportation Committee and we have provided the Selectboard with our thoughts on the project. We did not get State aid for the Bridge St. Bridge until the legislators and the Governor were involved. I think the same thing will be the case here.

Cara LaBounty: I want to understand the 6’ shoulders and where are those proposed?

Bard: We were focused on the village to the Park and Ride.

Cara LaBounty: Please don’t forget about the Jonesville section of Town.

i) Richmond Police Department has officially adopted the proposed Fair and Impartial Policing Policy

Kyle Kapitanski: We have adopted the policy and it has been disseminated to the officers. This adoption follows approval by the Attorney General’s Office.

Christine: Thank you for your work on this. This is a fantastic update.

j) Update on moving Town staff office space and plan for Selectboard meetings to continue on Zoom when in person meetings are allowed

Josh: In the discussions related to use of space at the Town Center, that have lasted more than a year, several options for Town Staff and meeting space have been discussed. The plan that seems to have consensus is to move some Town staff into the large meeting

room on the main floor. This would move Selectboard and other meetings to a space on the third floor. We currently have three staff members sharing an office space that is too small in non-COVID times and in COVID times it is not safe to have three people in that small a space. I plan to move the Town Planner and Zoning Administrative Officer to the large room on the main floor. These changes will be made in a temporary fashion to allow for time for an architect to help with a long term design that may include more construction to re-configure space for a long term solution. I am also working with MMCTV to set up the upstairs meeting room so meetings can be attended in person with an option to join and participate virtually.

June Heston: I feel like we are getting more people now at Selectboard meetings. I think people are feeling more engaged now. I want to ensure we keep people engaged and make them feel welcome at the meetings.

Josh Arneson: The changes will be purposely temporary so we can move back if we find that the arrangement is simply not working for Selectboard meetings.

Cara LaBounty: I like the idea of breaking up the staffers, it should be more efficient. I don't think you should be opposed to moving people upstairs. I want you to be hesitant to even attempting to do Selectboard meetings in a smaller room. I strongly recommend moving staff upstairs.

Christine Werneke: The Town Center and Library Committee will be looking at the needs for space for town staff and community organizations.

Cara LaBounty: Have you talked about when Town Offices will open back up?

Christine Werneke: We have not talked about that yet. Let's add that to discussion items to next agenda.

k) Update on progress of CSWD Lease

Josh Arneson: Selectboard members David Sander and June Heston, Richmond CSWD Representative Logan Hegg, and I met with CSWD Executive Director Sarah Reeves and CSWD Director of Operations Josh Tyler to begin discussion on the new leases. As a reminder their 5year lease expired at the end of 2020. We decided to renew for only one year to allow for time to discuss a few items related to CSWD. The Town was primarily interested in exploring options for re-opening the re-use zone which closed some time ago. The Town was also interested in hearing more about planned capital investments in the area by CSWD. In the meeting we discussed the re-use Zones. Sarah Reeves and Josh Tyler reviewed the many challenges surrounding the re-use zones including that about 40% of items dropped off were actually garbage, some materials were hazardous, and that finding full time staffing was challenging. They also noted that when they closed the re-use zone in Burlington Re-Store agreed to manage the re-use zone but stopped after only one month because they found that a large amount of the items left were garbage.

Sarah Reeves and Josh Tyler did indicate that they could make space available for a re-use zone at the drop off center but that they would not staff it. It would need to be run by another entity which could include volunteers or a non-profit or local business interested in managing the re-use zone. If we were to proceed with either option we likely would run into many of the same challenges that CSWD experienced with the re-use zone.

June Heston: It was enlightening to hear of the challenges that they faced with the re-use zones. Some challenges included belligerent people. I am an advocate of using the other organizations in the area that you can use for donations.

Bard Hill: I use the Richmond drop off center and have seen a large number of usable items that have ended up in the dumpster. They have not provided data, they have only provided stories, and they did not make the decision with feedback from the public. A majority of their board voted to re-open the re-use zone but due to the weighted votes it did not pass.

June Heston: It came down to 40% of the items being considered garbage.

Bard Hill: I know that is their story but it is not my observation. I know it is a burden to throw these items away but it is not more of a burden than handling the other items such as electronics. But, I know they seem to have made this decision and are not going back. At the time their policy was that any item brought to the re-use zone was paid for as waste.

David Sander: I was hoping to re-kindle the conversation about the re-use zone but they pushed it back on us. I appreciated the re-use zone and am sorry to see it go.

Logan Hegg: My role is to be the representative of the Selectboard. I too was bummed by this decision to close the re-use zone. It is clear they do not want to re-open the re-use zone.

Cara LaBounty: What is the lease value that CSWD pays?

Logan Hegg: I think it is \$1. to be clear they are a municipality.

Cara LaBounty: We could bring in a commercial entity to lease the site and require them to have a re-use zone. The person who is picking up items from the re-use zone may not be able to purchase that same items from a center that would re-sell it.

Christine Werneke: There is time to look at other options as CSWD will not be bringing it back. The bigger question is what do we want in a drop off center? Is it an option to look at other vendors?

Josh Arneson: We could look at it.

Bard Hill: We could put a simplified RFP out to see if there are any contenders who may want to lease this space.

Rod West: The property is a quarter million dollar asset in an industrial zone. I appreciate having trash services available in this area. Doing an RFP is my intention. We may also want to consider what is the best use of this property for the Town. Maybe it is a commercial hauler or maybe it is another use for the property.

Cara LaBounty: You may want to combine the trash service for the Town in an RFP for use of the space.

l) Consideration of re-approving the use of \$2000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund to go toward ecological trail design in the Andrews Community Forest. Necessary to correct incorrect minutes from 2/16/21 meeting

Christine Werneke: This is an amendment to the 2/16/21 meeting the Selectboard meeting. It was made correctly but it was recorded incorrectly.

Bard moved to approve the use of \$2,000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund for the purpose of partially paying for a Phase 2 Ecological Review and Trail Design at Andrews Community Forest, and to let this motion override the minutes of February 16, 2021 which incorrectly stated the \$2,000 was to be paid from the Andrews Community Forest Fund. David seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

m) Update on appointments to boards/commissions/committees

Josh Arneson: This is a reminder that the main deadline for letters to be considered for appointment to a Town committee is April 14. Letters to be appointed to the DRB are due on March 31. Letters of interest for the Water and Sewer Commission are due on June 2.

n) Consideration of approval of liquor licenses

Christine Werneke: Reviewed this is an annual process to approve liquor licenses.

June Heston: Asked about the tear off tickets at Pappa McKee's

Christine Werneke: The tear off tickets are controlled by the DLC. Josh, can you follow up with Linda tomorrow to be sure we do not need to have action by the SB to approve the tickets?

Josh Arneson: Yes.

David moved to approve first class liquor licenses and outdoor consumption permits for LJM Enterprises Inc (Papa McKee's Pizzeria), Stone Corral, Fine Eats Inc (Kitchen Table Bistro), and Stone's Throw Pizza; Second Class liquor licenses for AGS Vermont Inc (Richmond Market & Beverage), RMM Enterprises (Richmond Mobil Mart), William Donovan Inc (Lucky Spot), and Cumberland Farms; and Third Class liquor licenses for Fine Eats Inc (Kitchen Table Bistro), LJM Enterprises Inc (McKees), and Stone Corral. June Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

o) Review of leases for tenants in the Town Center

Christine Werneke: There are three leases included in the packet. This is work of the Town Center Committee. Does the Board have any questions on the leases?

Bard Hill: It seems pretty clear that these are the three that have raised their hand at this point and they are two year leases to allow for flexibility.

Christine Werneke: We have also been clear with the prospective tenants that the Town Center building may be different in the coming years and it could be a process of renovations.

Angelike Contis: Our attorney is reviewing and will provide feedback on suggested changes.

Josh Arneson: I have also received some small change requests from the Community Senior Center and the Historical Society. Once I have all changes compiled I will submit final versions for discussion, review and consideration of approval by the Selectboard.

Update on repairing Dugway Rd.

Josh Arneson: Pete and I met this morning at the gorge washout on Dugway Rd. with SD Ireland and the engineer Tyler Bililngsley. At this meeting the representative from SD Ireland indicated that once we get sign-off from FEMA they are ready to proceed with construction. This may mean that work starts in the next couple of weeks. At the last Selectboard meeting I had reported the information I had at that time, which was that we missed the early March window for starting work early and that SD Ireland would wait until mid-May to begin the project. It seems that given the slow and steady spring thaw and relatively light snowpack in the mountains, there is not a large threat of high water and SD Ireland feels comfortable proceeding with a late March or early April start date. I will add this to tonight's agenda as an update for the SB and the public.

Christine Werneke: Will there be any impacts to residents once construction starts?

Josh Arneson: There should not be any impacts to residents during construction.

p) Review of project and task list for new Selectboard members

Christine Werneke: There were some items included in the memo. Cody and June are there any topics that you would like to cover in more detail.

Bard Hill: We could add in an RFP for a new drop off center.

III. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Minutes

David moved to approve the minutes of 3/8/21. Bard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Warrants:

June Heston: We have a \$35 late fee on the credit card. How often does this happen.

Josh Arneson: We did some work with the credit card company a while ago to try to adjust billing to avoid late fees.

June Heston: Can we do typed POs?

Cara LaBounty: You may not have to pay everything by check. You may be able to pay credit card electronically.

David moved to approve the warrants as presented. Bard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

David moved to approve the Allonge for the line of credit with Union Bank June seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Purchase Orders:

Bard moved to approve PO# 4128 to Aarrowood Environmental and Sinuosity in an amount not to exceed \$12,000. David seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Items for next agenda

- Updates on leases
- Update on reappraisal process
- Rt. 2 reclamation project
- Update on parklet proposal.
- Picnic table request from Radiate

David thanked Christine for chairing the meeting.

David moved to adjourn. June Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Cody, June, and Christine voted affirmatively. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 pm.

CHAT

00:40:38 Judy Rosovsky: Thanks everyone!

01:41:36 Allen Knowles: Would enforcing the 2 hr time limit in applicable spaces help?

01:47:47 Allen Knowles: The Public Input Meeting for the Bridge Street Plan is Thursday, April 8 at 7PM.

01:55:34 Rod West: Who has liability if someone gets hurt from a car accident while people are sitting in the street?

02:06:45 Frances Thomas: Bridge St is the major route for many motorists through Richmond. The streets in Burlington and Montpelier that allowed parklets are side streets and not major routes of travel.

02:07:23 beckyvigneault: I agree Fran

02:09:44 Frances Thomas: Based on what we are hearing from the Governor, businesses may be back at full capacity early this summer.

02:24:20 beckyvigneault: Thank you June

02:40:25 Rod West: Who is the land owner that this parking area would abut?

02:43:48 Christine Werneke: Rod, the parcel where the stone would be stored in the new location abuts Mary Houle's property. Are you asking about the 30+ acres that would be used in parking?

02:46:18 Rod West: I just looked at a tax map, seems it goes all the way to the riverbank! No abutting issues.

03:41:34 Rod West: For what it is worth, I have had an employee of Casella's tell me that Casella would like to buy all the Drop-off centers from CSWD

03:57:35 Rod West: Please to see these groups upstairs in the town center!

03:57:41 Rod West: Pleased