## Richmond Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Mark Fausel, Alison Anand, Scott Nickerson, Joy Reap, Brian Tellstone

Others Present: Jessica Draper, Town Planner (by phone); Virginia Clarke; Sean Foley; Brodie O’Brien

Called to Order: 7:05pm

Public Comment

Brodie O’Brien is new to Richmond and considering joining a town commission or board and came to check out the planning commission

Sean Foley announced that he is applying for the vacancy on the planning commission

Mark Fausel mentioned that he spent time discussing the Housing technical plan with Gary Bressor

Alison Anand wanted to make sure everyone received her memo about Future Land Use and the Almanac before proceeding with discussions

Jessica Draper clarified that the selectboard is not yet making appointments to the planning commission and the commission will remain at 6 members until they decided to make said appointments

Administrative Items & Updates

Minutes: Alison Anand moved to approve the minutes of 2/21, seconded by Brian Tellstone, all in favor, motion passed.

Town Plan

Historic Resources: Martha Turner submitted further commentary regarding the Round Church that had been requested by the subcommittee. It will be added for the next meeting.

Utilities & facilities: Currently waiting on feedback from Kendall Chamberlin and Rebecca Mueller, there was expressed desire to add discussion of the fire department building and the police facility issues, possibly the backstory of the public safety facility process.

Mark Fausel requested that new dated copies of all the technical plans be printed for the next meeting.

Joy Reap requested that track changes be used henceforth, at least on digital copies, of the technical plans in order to follow the changes from meeting to meeting.

It was requested to add a blurb about the police services to the community development section. Further discussion is needed to determine what information regarding the police department should be included and where.

Mark Fausel asked for clarification regarding the nature of the almanac and if it could live in editable form outside of the plan to be updated periodically after the adoption of the plan itself, and if it could be facts, data, and discussion based. Alison Anand expanded on her previously mentioned memo regarding the plan sections. She reiterated to those present that her desire for the almanac would be for it to contain historic information and current data about sectors, lists of existing studies and plans, and include a list of local organizations. She expressed that she was in favor of making it editable. Brian Tellstone mentioned the redundancy of the almanac and the group agreed to minimize redundancy and ensure statutory compliance. Mark discussed Bob Low’s contributions to the environmental portion of the almanac and offered to take the lead in editing that document. It was decided to put a full list of historic sites in the almanac to save space, and include more prominent historic sites in the technical plan.

Jeff Forward gave a brief update on the status of the energy technical plan. He said it is close to complete but due to the energy compliance component he is sending his edits back and forth to Melanie at the CCRPC to ensure edits are compliant. Once edits are complete both the state and CCRPC have to review and approve the plan for compliance. The planning commission as a whole expressed the desire to have that technical plan draft in hand sooner rather than later, and would like to review it before April 18th.

Future Land Use: Virginia Clarke explained that her proposed technical plan for future land use comes from a working group of Cathleen Gent, Brad Elliot, Bob Low, and herself. Their goal was to create simpler land use areas, and to create natural resource layers that could be used in conjunction with a future land use map. She explained that layers would be more legible than all aspects of natural resources on one map. The five layers would be: Hydrologic features, Prime Ag Soils, Steep Slopes and Ridgelines, Forest/Habitat, and Current Use/Conserved Parcels. The planning commission expressed concern that many of these topics had been decided on in the past. Jessica Draper was asked to come up with a possible new map that is more detailed than the current Future Land Use map for the commission to review. Virginia Clarke explained that new VT legislation dictates a new style of planning and economic consideration for forests as economic opportunities rather than solely conservation opportunities which would require us to look closer at the natural and working lands aspect of Future Land Use. It was decided that if there will be ambiguity in the boundaries between uses on the map that we need to explain the reasoning behind that in the narrative and draw clearer connections between the technical plan and the map itself.

The planning commission decided to continue the Future Land Use discussion at the next meeting, and also begin the discussion around the Natural Resources technical plan.

Adjourn

Brian Tellstone made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Joy Reap, all in favor, so moved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jessica Draper, Town Planner