

Post Office Box 1
Richmond, Vermont 05477
August 12, 2021

To the Richmond Selectboard members,

My name is Gary Bressor and I am writing to ask you to appoint me fill the selectboard seat that has recently opened due to the resignation of one of your members. In order that the voters can elect the next selectboard member I would like to be appointed to fill the seat until the next Annual Town Meeting in March 2022. This will give candidates time to decide to run and to mount a normal campaign for the seat. I would not run for the seat in 2022.

While Richmond faces many challenges, it is important to recognize how far we have come in the past couple of decades. The business block of Bridge Street is a dynamic place thanks to Gabe Firman's Hatchet and Big Spruce, as well as Lisa Curtis's Sweet Simones. Stones Throw Pizza and Bret and Melissa Hamilton's Stone Corral Brewery are other businesses that keep the village active into the evening. We are very lucky to have Richmond Market and Richmond Home Supply in our village where many people can walk to them. The efforts of Jimmy Cochran and the whole Cochran family have taken the Cochran Ski area to new heights by turning it into a nonprofit and expanding night skiing and snowmaking in the winter, while creating a summer destination for mountain bikers (pre-Covid I talked with a couple of bikers from Montreal who said they regularly drive down to ride the trails on Cochran's and surrounding lands). The Richmond Trails Committee and other groups have added to this trail system and Richmond has become known as a town with great recreational opportunities that draw many people to live here.

It seems to me we are in a golden period in Richmond's existence, perhaps not seen since the early 1900's, when two men named Goodwin and Baker bought land in the village and built the Richmond Underwear Factory. They employed 125 people in the building on Millet Street, and the town had multiple grocery stores, a movie theater, and a car dealership.

Richmond's current good fortune is supported by, and would not be possible without, a strong town government and department leadership that is truly outstanding. The highway department, led by Pete Gosselin, does a remarkable job with both winter and summer maintenance (made harder due to the changing climate), and they found time to build the beautiful Overocker Park parking area this spring.

Richmond has been unbelievably fortunate to have Kendall Chamberlain as head of the water resources department for decades. Kendall is an award-winning plant manager, and through his efforts Richmond has been awarded best tasting municipal drinking water in the state. As he gets closer to retirement, Kendall has worked tirelessly to improve the water and sewer system. Without Richmond's municipal systems there could not be a brewery or other restaurants in the village. The system has dramatically improved water quality in the Winooski River, as I

remember when much of the village dumped raw sewage directly into the river, and no one swam or floated down the river. Now hundreds, maybe thousands, of people come down the river every year.

I would like to add my voice to the Selectboard to help continue to make Richmond a wonderful place to live, raise a family, to work and play in, and I ask for your support in this endeavor.

Here are some of the things I have been involved with:

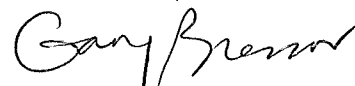
- Three terms on the Richmond Selectboard at various times, the first time in 1972 when I was 21 years old.
- Member of the first seven Town Center Committees that lead to the creation of the current town offices/post office/library campus.
- Founding member of Richmond Rescue.
- Former member of the Richmond Fire Department.
- Former Justice of the Peace on several terms.
- Planning Commission member for eight years.
- Served on the Board of Adjustment (the forerunner to the Development Review Board).
- Founding president of the Richmond Historical Society and board member for 48 years. For the past few decades I have overseen the work done to maintain the Round Church.
- Founding chair of the Richmond Land Trust and board member for thirty years.

In that time I started my own construction company, Richmond Restorations, at first working in historic preservation on covered bridges and buildings like the renovations of the round barns in Waitsfield and at Shelburne Museum. Later, when I was elected to be Richmond's representative in the Vermont House of Representative and it was hard to take on long projects with the legislative schedule, I worked in Richmond doing additions and an occasional house for friends. In the past six years, I have transitioned to just working on a small development I have near the Round Church called Peaceable Kingdom, where I try to build energy efficient modern homes that look like they were built during the Federal and Greek Revival architectural periods (1800 to 1850).

If there is one thing I believe I can bring to the Selectboard, it is to think outside the box to find solutions to the town's current problems.

I know I have been involved in town government off and on for many years, and that this town seems to value new faces over old ones, but I do think it is good to have some members that have a long history with the place they are representing. I care deeply about this town, and I want to see it flourish long into the future. I hope you will select me to fill the seat.

Best wishes,


Gary Bressor