

Conserving Land For Richmond's Future



**Renewing Richmond's
Conservation Reserve Fund**

**It's again time for voters to decide
whether to renew Richmond's
Conservation Reserve Fund**

Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund

- **2005: Established by voters**
- **2010: Renewed by voters**
- **2015: Renewed by voters (Yes - 693; No - 223)**
- **2020: Funding expires: Voting now to be annual**

Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund

- **Financed by 1 cent on the tax rate.**
- **FY 2020 yield: \$46,465.**
- **Focuses on conserving local natural, agricultural and historic resources.**
- **Enables the Town to move quickly to capture prime, time-sensitive funding opportunities.**
- **Brings in major support from outside funding sources (State, Federal, foundations)**

Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund

Decision- Making

- **Conservation Commission reviews projects proposals on continuing basis.**
- **Recommendation to Selectboard.**
- **Selectboard approves or disapproves expenditures.**

Built-In Fiscal Protections for the Town

- **Design encourages non-profit and volunteer responsibilities for project initiation, management and stewardship.**
- **Minimizes Town's administrative burdens and expenses.**
- **Voters must OK any land acquisitions by the Town costing over \$20,000.**

Why Renew?

Advances Town Plan Priorities

- **“Protect priority natural areas in order to maintain the health and function of those areas and their ecosystem services.”**
- **“Preserve healthy and resilient working lands, agricultural soils.”**
- **“Maintain Richmond’s rural character and scenic beauty.”**
- **“Utilize best management practices for Richmond-owned, publicly accessible natural and recreational areas.”**
- **“Utilize the conservation reserve fund to protect important**
 - **natural resources and public access to them where appropriate”**

CRF Projects to Date

Natural Areas

- Andrews Community Forest
- Huntington Gorge

Working Farms

- Bombardier Meadow
- Andrews Farmland

Recreational Treasures

- Willis Hill
- Johnnie Brook Bridge
- Volunteer's Green Rip-Rap

Historic Sites

- Town Center Portico
- Cong. Church Stained Glass Windows
- Richmond Hill Cemetery

Environmental Research and Education

- Large Habitat Block Survey
- Science-to-Action Report
- Master Naturalist Program
- Lake Iroquois Plant Survey

A 15-year successful track record at protecting water and air quality, biodiversity, working farms and forests, outdoor recreation, historic resources and education

CRF Funded Projects

Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund

Supported Projects
2005-2020

Project Key

ACF: Andrews Community Forest

AF: Andrews Farmland

BM: Bombardier Meadow

CC: Congregational Church Window Restoration

GP: Gillett Pond Dam Restoration

HG: Huntington Gorge

JBB: Johnny Brook Bridge

LI: Lake Iroquois Plant Survey

RHC: Richmond Hill Cemetery

TC: Town Center Portico Restoration

VG: Volunteers Green Riprap

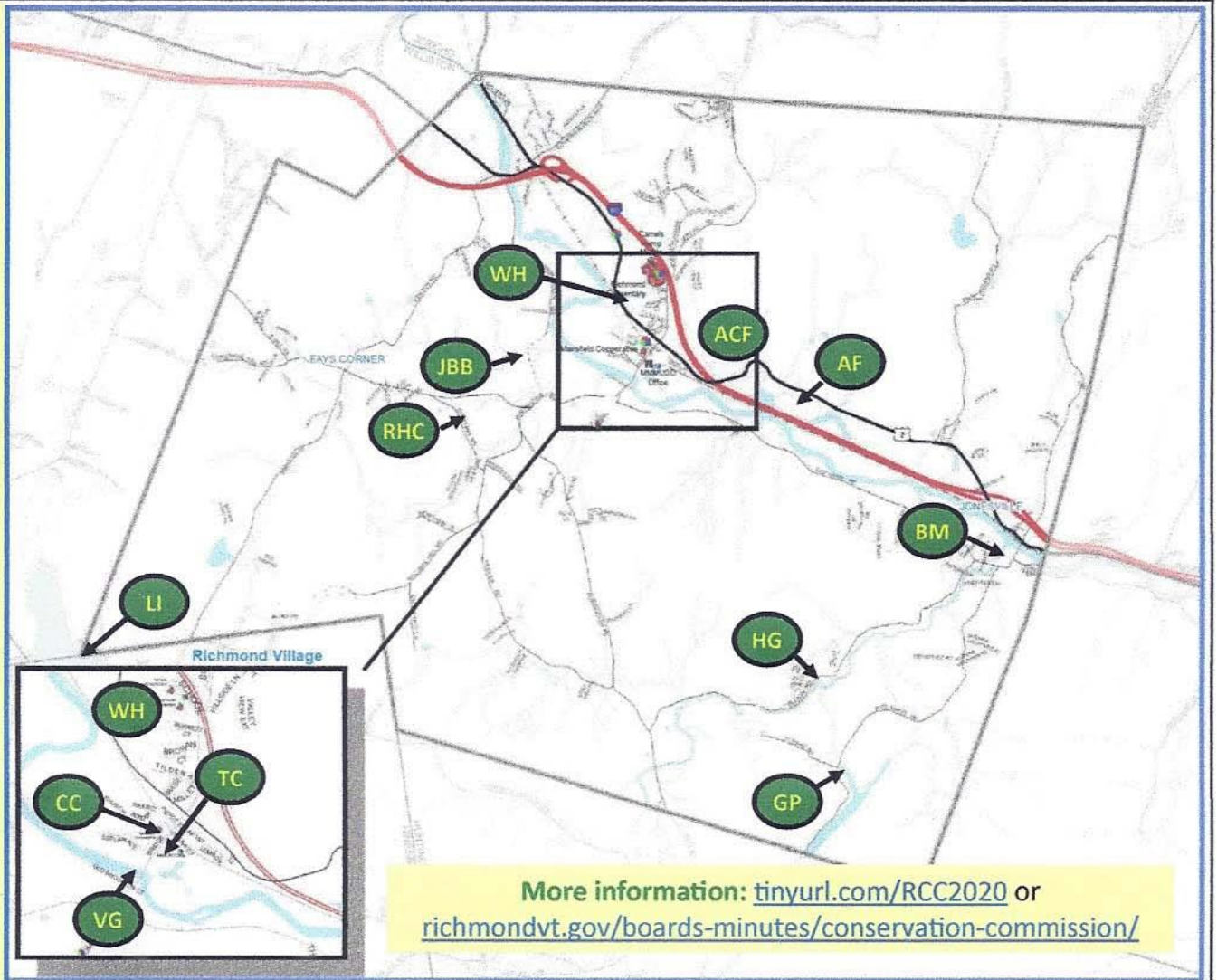
WH: Willis Hill

Town-Wide Projects

Large Habitat Block Survey

Science-to-Action Project

Master Naturalist Program



Conservation Projects Inspire Local Poster Series



Recent Uses

Willis Hill



Town Center Portico



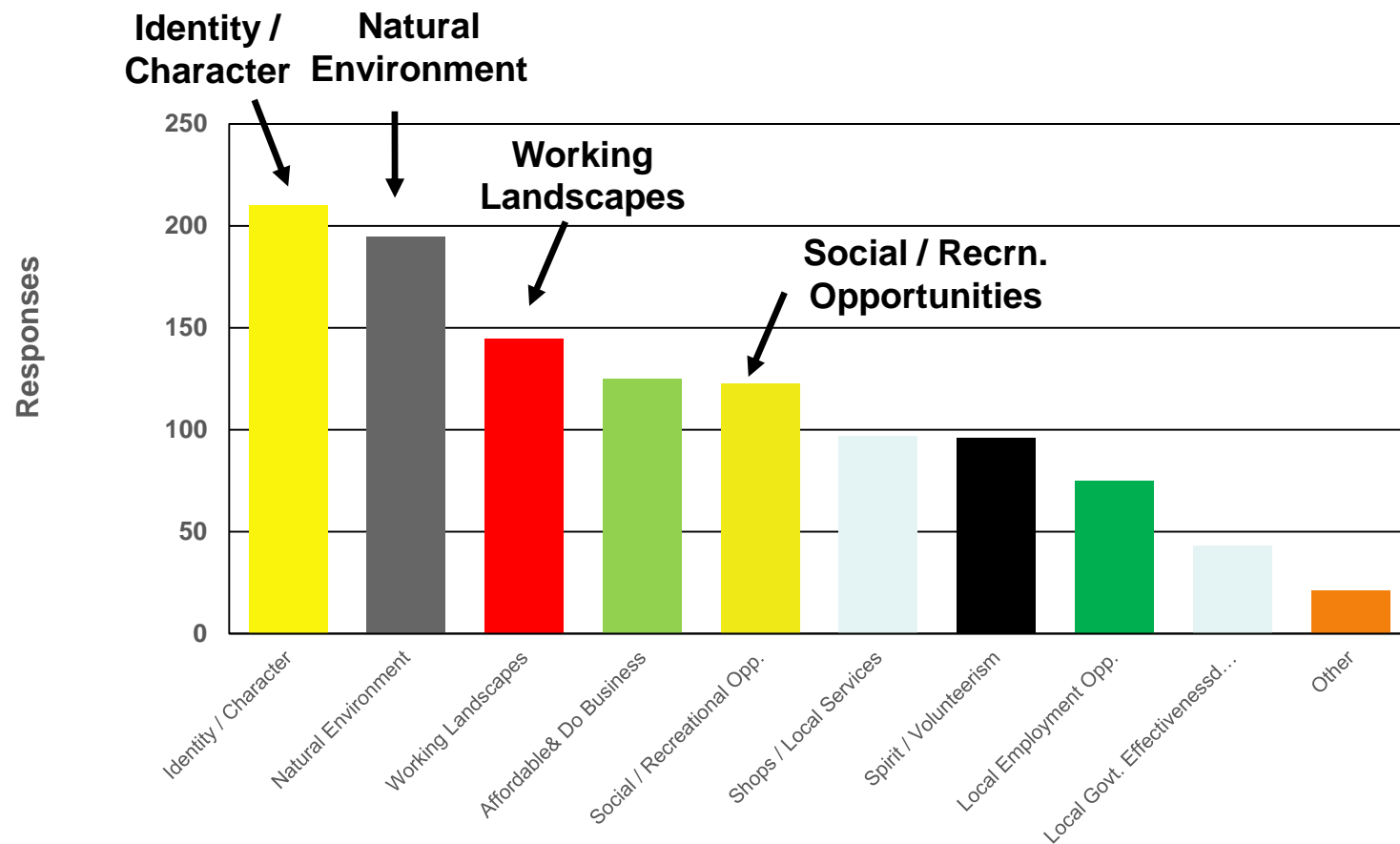
Andrews Town Forest



VT Master Naturalist Program



Tracks with Longstanding Residents' Vision for Richmond's Future



1999 Resident Survey

Scale 1 to 5; 5 = Strongly Encourage

Town of Richmond, Vermont



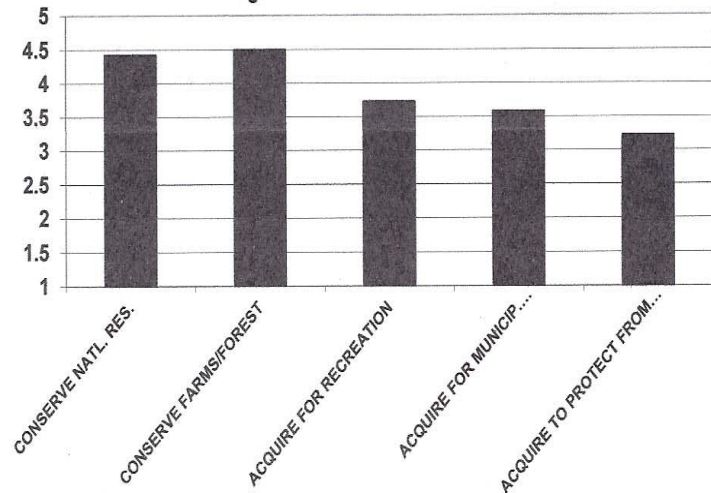
Community Survey
1999



*Home of the
Round Church*

5 = Strongly Encourage
4 = Encourage Somewhat
3 = No Strong Feelings
2 = Discourage Somewhat
1 = Strongly Discourage

Average Score: Natural Resources



Left to Right:

- Conserve Natural Resources
- Conserve Farms / Forest
- Acquire for recreation
- Acquire for Municipal needs
- Acquire to protect from development

440% Return on Taxpayer Funding

To date:

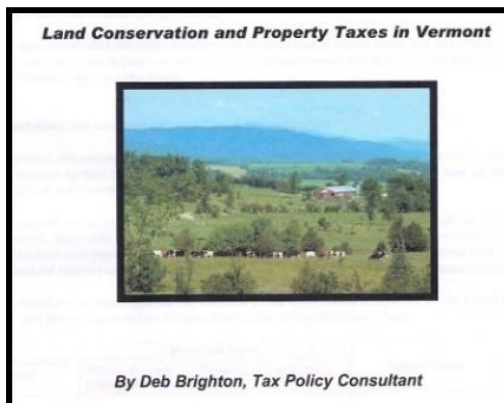
▪ CRF grants	\$ 287,424
• Matching grants won	\$1,415,583
▪ Total value of projects	\$1,703,007

Leverage: \$1 CRF brought in \$4.93

But What About Taxes?

The Evidence:

- **Towns with more conserved acreage have lower property taxes.**
- **Conserved properties demand fewer municipal services.**



It's again time to decide the CRF's future

- **CRF funding expires in 2020.**
- **The Conservation Commission recommends a “Yes” vote to continue funding for another year.**
- **Polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 3 at Camels Hump Middle School.**
- **Absentee ballots now available from the Town Clerk; must be completed and received by the Clerk by March 2.**

The Question on Town Meeting Day

Article 6

Shall the voters approve funding the Conservation Reserve Fund by adding one cent to the municipal tax rate in the 2020-2021 fiscal year?

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Questions / Comments?