

1 Richmond Planning Commission

2 Regular Meeting

3 Wednesday, February 22, 2017

4 Unapproved Minutes

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5 **Members Present:** Brian Tellstone, Alex Brosam, Mark Fausel, Sean Foley, Clare Rock (Staff)

6 **Absent:** Lauck Parke, Joy Reap

7 **Others Present:** Bruce LaBounty, Mary Houle

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9 Public Comment

10 Bruce LaBounty objects to the public statement brought up at the selectboard meeting on Monday, where a  
11 group might be wanting an inclusive statement (such as Richmond being a sanctuary city or a similar statement)  
12 included in the Town Plan, LaBounty feels we shouldn't be promoting Richmond similar to Rutland. Rock  
13 referenced the first bullet statement of the Vision Statement which references a group of all people.  
14 Mary Houle stated "Sanctuary" came up 3 times at the selectboard meeting, and does not feel this is  
15 appropriate.

16  
17 Administrative Items & Updates

18 - Approve meeting minutes – Feb 1, 2017. Other minutes will have to wait for additional members.

19 Tellstone made a motion to approve the Feb 1, 2017 minutes, seconded by Brosam, all in favor. So voted.

20 - Updates

- 21 ○ Creamery – Buttermilk will be seeking a site plan amendment to change their parking  
22 area, which will have to be approved by the selectboard. Buttermilk is in the process  
23 of putting together their Act 250 application.
- 24 ○ Zoning Administrative Officer position – The Town has received some resumes and  
25 anticipates scheduling some interviews in March.
- 26 ○ Accessory Dwelling zoning changes – the changes will go into effect Feb 28.
- 27 ○ Andrews Forestland – Rock referenced the project website which includes  
28 information about the project, towns people will be asked to vote on whether the town  
29 should use conservation funds to help purchase the property at town meeting.  
30 Tellstone is not in favor of the project. Houle stated that 16% of Richmond land is  
31 currently conserved and there will be a cost to the town in addition to the purchase of  
32 the land, including the on-going management of the property. Discussion followed  
33 about the use of conservation funds and prioritization of projects.
- 34 ○ Energy planning –
  - 35 ■ The Richmond Energy Coordinator is reinvigorating the local energy  
36 committee.
  - 37 ■ People are interested in tracking energy usage at the selectboard level.
  - 38 ■ The PC would like to request a written report from the Town Energy  
39 Coordinator as per the statutory language.
  - 40 ■ Discussion of energy credits, they don't reduce town energy costs, renewable  
41 energy credits are a statement to say "your green."
  - 42 ■ The PC would like to know when CCRPC will have their draft maps  
43 available.
- 44 ○ Local Motion – Rock described the pop up project which Local Motion can assist  
45 with. It will entail temporary crosswalks and sidewalks on Bridge Street to help the  
46 Town in the process of implementing permanent solutions to help increase pedestrian  
47 safety as identified in the 2010 Bridge Street pedestrian plan.
- 48 ○ Joint Trails and Rec meeting with Creative RVT – This meeting may take place on  
49 either March 14 or 21. Fausel wants to join the email list.
- 50 ○ Chief Buck is currently out on medical leave and will return in May.
- 51 ○ Legislative Updates –updates will be forward to PC members.

- CCRPC population forecast – PC would like more info on the recent forecast.
- Upcoming meeting schedule & future agenda items for consideration:
  - Town Plan - remaining chapters
  - Developable Areas Map – initial review – not yet scheduled
  - Introduction to Scenario Modeling Project – initial overview – will push off further, at least until the PC has agreed on a future land use map.
- Follow up from Feb 1 meeting – Discussion about the high cost of the new public safety building and the potential locations, in addition to the already identified sites. LaBounty added how his land on Route 2 would be a great location for a new public safety building. Discussion followed.
- Town Plan schedule – asap. Finish draft by spring, summer editing, formal adoption in the fall. Rock is seeking assistance from our previous consultation to help out.

### Town Plan

Safe and Resilient Community Chapter – preliminary discussion. Rock provided an overview of the chapter contents. The following comments were raised:

- Include the following within the Community Connections & Capacity section:
  - reference to the town’s BEOP/LEOP
  - Reference the town’s initial work with developing a CRO
- Include the facts about the # of people died at the Huntington Gorge but do not include any discussion or targets or actions.
- Discussion should focus primarily on flooding, new public safety building, and include a statement/discussion about the inter-connectiveness of all elements/aspects of life in Richmond contribute to its resilience
- Within Goals, targets and actions section – remove the pharmacy related target, add public safety building specific target and action to Goal IV
- Include brief paragraph about the opioid problem and the communities response (the “we’ve had enough meetings, the formation of the task force and their work.) Ask the physician who is helping with the task force to draft a brief overview.

### Next Meeting Topics

- Transparent and Inclusive Decision-Making Chapter – preliminary discussion
- Vibrant and appealing downtown Chapter – preliminary discussion
- Limited staff updates and administrative items

### Next Meeting Dates

There will be no March 1 meeting, Rock will be away.

March 15 – regular meeting.

March 22 – potential additional meeting date dependent on availability of other members.

### Adjourn

*Tellstone made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Fausel, all in favor. So voted.*

The meeting ending at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Clare Rock, Town Planner