

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 15, 2013 MINUTES**

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Members Present: June Heston, Chair; Amy Lord, Vice-Chair; Chris Granda; Ashley Lucht; Taylor Yeates

Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Mary Houle; Frederick Barrett; Cathleen Gent, Town Planner; Mark Fausel, Planning Commission; Christy Witters; Ellen Ward; Gary Bressor; Brian Tellstone; Daniel Begins; Bruce LaBounty; Collin Green and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

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June Heston called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**1. Welcome and Public Comment**

Ms. Heston mentioned the bombings in Boston earlier in the day and said our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected. She asked if there was any public comment.

Collin Green said he was an avid cyclist and wanted to have a track at Volunteers Green. This would be a "pump track" where people could ride safely, do some tricks and have fun. Ms. Heston said things to consider would be of course cost and public input. Mr. Green said there would be minimal cost, and Cathleen Gent mentioned that if this was in the floodway, then the type of construction may be limited.

**2. Items for Discussion with Those Present**

Planning Commission Interviews

The Selectboard first interviewed Daniel Begins. Mr. Begins said he was interested because the board needed more diversity, and sometimes people serve two masters. He worked for himself and was not a developer in town and he's been here a long time.

Ms. Lucht asked what background or skills would he bring to the commission. Mr. Begins said he was solution oriented and cuts through red tape.

Mr. Granda asked what diversity and Mr. Begins replied that different people are in different walks of life. Maybe he would have contact with people that others might not, and hear those opinions.

Chair Heston asked if he had served on a similar board and he said he had not. Ms. Lucht asked if he had thought about the commitment this represented and Mr. Begins replied he was up for a challenge. Mr. Granda asked if he was a developer and he said he was not but he was in construction. Mr. Granda asked if he owned any properties that were to be developed and he said no.

Ms. Lord asked if he was familiar with the town plan, and Mr. Begins said he had looked at it and it was a work in progress.

1 Chair Heston thanked Mr. Begins and asked Mr. Tellstone to come forward.

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3 Brian Tellstone said he was in town for some time and thought it was time for him to do something to  
4 get involved. Ms. Lucht asked what skills he would bring. Mr. Tellstone said he had been to a couple  
5 of meetings and it seemed that a thoughtful approach was better. He said that the newest proposal was  
6 defeated and suggested that one of the more controversial items was the three and ten acre parcel  
7 zoning. He felt that was too much land and present landowners might feel they were losing out.

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9 Mr. Granda asked if he was a developer and he said no, but he was a carpenter.

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11 Ms. Lord asked if he was familiar with the town plan and he said no but he was familiar with how  
12 things are now and he's not uncomfortable with that.

13  
14 Chair Heston thanked Mr. Tellstone.

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16 There was some discussion. It was agreed that since some others had applied recently that those  
17 interviews would be held on May 6th and no appointments made until then. There would be a May  
18 3rd cutoff date for application.

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20 Bruce LaBounty suggested the board raise the membership back to seven people. Chair Heston said  
21 that the Planning Commission should make that request.

### 22 23 Round Church Road Streetlights - Gary Bressor

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25 Gary Bressor, of the Richmond Historical Society, said that as part of the bicentennial celebration of  
26 the Old Round Church, they wanted to put a tent up on Round Church Green. An electrical wire was  
27 in the way which would have to be moved. This would deactivate the only street light on Round  
28 Church Road. His proposal was to install decorative lighting to replace this light, with buried  
29 electrical service. Mr. Bressor suggested using LED down-lights with caps, to direct light downward.  
30 These lights could also have adjustable luminescence, and he provided some examples. He noted that  
31 the 2005 lighting plan included lights on Round Church Road. There would be 3 or four lights, at  
32 about \$4,000 each.

33  
34 Ms. Lord asked who would own and maintain the lights? Mr. Bressor said that the Historical Society  
35 or the Town would own them, and be responsible for maintenance.

36  
37 Mary Houle asked if any permitting was required, and Mr. Bressor said there is an active permit which  
38 included these lights. Ms. Houle asked if Green Mountain Power would remove the overhead line and  
39 do the buried electrical. Mr. Bressor said they would remove the overhead line but hoped that the  
40 buried power would be installed with volunteers. He hoped to fundraise to get this project started.

41  
42 There was some discussion but the consensus of the board was to proceed with the plan outlined by  
43 Mr. Bressor.

### 44 45 **3. Other Business**

#### 46 47 Ecosystem Restoration Grant Amendment

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49 Cathleen Gent and Christy Witters came forward to explain a proposed amendment to the Ecosystem  
50 Restoration Grant project. Ms. Gent explained that this grant was to originally provide for a rain

1 garden and retention pond, at different locations, at Town Center. After discussions with the  
2 neighbors, it was decided that these ideas would not work out in everyone's favor. The town was  
3 searching for a similar project, and Christy Witters suggested that the town create some stormwater  
4 mitigation for the new Depot Street Parking Lot. Ms. Gent added that the time to amend the grant was  
5 nearing or else the grant would be lost. Ms. Witters further explained her ideas.

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7 Mary Houle said that this lot cost \$50,000 to purchase and we'll spend another \$100,000 for parking  
8 and the \$35,000 for the grant was not an insignificant amount of money.

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10 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the Ecosystem Restoration Grant amendment as outlined in  
11 Cathleen Gent's memo and was seconded by Ms. Lord. The motion carried 5-0.

### 12 13 Planning Commission Public Information Session on Proposed Regulations

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15 Cathleen Gent also explained that on the coming Wednesday, April 17th, there would be a Public  
16 Information Session by the Planning Commission on the newly revised proposed regulations for the  
17 floodplain and village parking restrictions and sign regulations. This was not a public hearing, but a  
18 chance for the public to weigh in before more work was done.

19  
20 Ms. Gent further explained the changes and said that they hoped to have a public hearing in May and  
21 send to the Selectboard in June. The Selectboard would then need a public hearing before further  
22 action.

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24 Chair Heston said that since the last proposal was voted down, if we move forward without a public  
25 vote now, it could be perceived as a sly move. Mr. Granda agreed and said that malicious mischief  
26 could happen again. There are lots of complicated changes, and people may be overwhelmed.

27  
28 Ms. Lord said she didn't see what was contentious about the changes proposed now. She agreed that  
29 the flood zone changes should be separated now. She asked how the parking requirements had  
30 changed.

31  
32 Ms. Gent replied that in the prior proposal the parking requirement for the village was waived for a  
33 certain area that was smaller in this proposal.

34  
35 There was some discussion on the flood plain regulations and how they've changed. Ms. Gent pointed  
36 out that the construction value threshold for a permit was now \$500 where it had been proposed to be  
37 \$1,000. She said that this had been approved by FEMA in Barre and she felt that \$1,000 would not be.

38  
39 Mr. Granda asked how the Selectboard could gauge the demand for a public vote on these changes.  
40 Ms. Heston asked how much would an election cost?

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42 Mr. Granda said he felt that the last election was exploited by persons who did not want any zoning at  
43 all.

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45 Bruce LaBounty objected to that statement. Mr. Granda said there was a broad spectrum of charges  
46 and objections and some agendas against the regulations had nothing to do with the vote.

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48 Mr. Yeates said he would like to see what the comments would be at the Wednesday session.

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50 Governance Committee – Taylor Yeates

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2 Mr. Yeates explained his proposal and timeline to complete the examination of the lister motion made  
3 at Town Meeting. Mr. Yeates' committee would include himself, a five-member panel, and non-  
4 voting staff members being the Town Manager and a current lister.

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6 The Selectboard agreed to the plan. Mr. Yeates offered a motion to adopt the outlined proposal and  
7 was seconded by Ms. Lord.

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9 Mr. Yeates added that the committee would stick to only this question and not branch out. He said  
10 that the deadline for the Selectboard to act on the proposal would be November 4<sup>th</sup>, and he intended to  
11 be finished by then.

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13 The motion carried 5-0.

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15 Website Updates

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17 Ms. Lucht explained that she and the Manager will have a phone conversation with Civic Plus, a web  
18 developer for many towns and cities across the country. This may be another option. They will also  
19 develop an application to Rural Development for a possible grant in setting up a new site. Ms. Heston  
20 said she just went through a website redesign and would love to advise if it was possible.

21  
22 Bridge Inspection Reports

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24 The Manager explained that the Bridge Street Bridge and bridge on Huntington Road over the  
25 Huntington River had been inspected. The Bridge Street Bridge had some cracks on its deck that  
26 needed to be epoxied.

27  
28 There was discussion on how to address the repairs. Ultimately, the Selectboard agreed to move  
29 forward with an epoxy repair to the Bridge Street Bridge and hire Mike Weisel to address a possible  
30 repair estimate for the Huntington River bridge, including replacement.

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32 Town Center Boiler Replacement

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34 Mr. Granda explained the prior boiler award, and since it was too close to December the contract could  
35 not be completed and no award was made. The project was recently rebid and the results had been  
36 reviewed by himself and Karl Goetze. All bids met the RFP requirements, and he recommended  
37 award to the low bidder. Bid results were:

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Company Name	Base Bid	Extra	Total Bid
Chucks Heating and Air Conditioning	\$ 47,394.00	None	\$47,394.00
Vermont Energy	\$42,500.00	None	\$42,500.00
Vermont Mechanical	\$44,000.00	Alt. 1 Chem Clean/Flush - \$2,100.00 Alt 2 Pipe Insulation in boiler room \$3,850.00	Base \$44,000.00 Alt 1 \$46,100.00 Alt 2 \$47,850.00 All 3 \$49,950.00

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40 Mr. Granda offered a motion to award the contract for the Town Center Boiler replacement to  
41 Vermont Energy in an amount not to exceed \$42,500 and was seconded by Ms. Lucht. The motion  
42 carried 5-0.

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Approval of Minutes: April 1, 2013

Ms. Lord offered a motion approve the minutes of April 1, 2013 with minor edits and was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

Mr. Yeates spoke of the recent house fire on Collins Mountain Road and thanked the Fire Department for all of their work. He was proud to have the Richmond Fire Department operating in town.

Flood Map Update – The Manager explained that the maps had been submitted to FEMA and we were waiting on their comments and approval. The real issue was an additional \$2,534 being requested by KAS, Inc. for additional work unanticipated during the submittal process.

Mr. Granda said it was hard to accept past bills. Ms. Lucht asked why they didn't anticipate this work?

Rick Barrett said that they bid this at a fixed price.

There was additional discussion. The Selectboard felt a revised bill could be negotiated. Mr. Yeates suggested \$1,000 but not \$2,500.

The Manager noted the Department Reports. There was a discussion that the Chief should be putting more information on Front Porch Forum, particularly about the bogus call for security checks from the Richmond police. The Selectboard also requested that the Race policy and Public Works Spec come back in front of the Selectboard.

Warrants and Purchase Orders

The Manager explained there were two purchase orders, for the FY2014 police cruiser and the culvert for Hinesburg Road.

Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve Purchase Order #2653 in the amount of \$26,447 to Shearer for the purchase of a police cruiser from FY14 funds and was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Granda offered a motion to approve Purchase Order #3048 in the amount of \$14,809.53 for the purchase of a culvert from Lane Enterprises and was seconded by Ms. Lord and the motion carried 5-0.

The warrants were approved.

Executive Session

The Manager explained that he had been negotiating with the Post Office on a lease renewal and need to discuss some details in executive session.

Ms. Lucht offered a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:43 pm for contract negotiations and was seconded by Mr. Granda. The motion carried 5-0.

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2 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular session at 9:05  
3 pm. Mr. Yeates seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

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5 **4. Adjourn**

6 Motion by Ms. Lucht to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Lord. So voted.