

Town of Richmond  
Rapid Fire Planning Night  
Topics: Mobility and Transportation Options; Safe and Self-Reliant Community  
Special Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission and the Town Plan Steering Committee  
February 17, 2016  
5:30 – 8pm

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Present: 19 total

Planning Commission: Brain Tellstone, Mark Fausel

Steering Committee: Heidi L. Bormann, Brad Elliot, Marshall Paulsen, Katie Loesel

Public: Maddie Ruth, Sam Granlty, Marie Thomas, Karen Yaggy, Police Chief Allan Buck, Terry Light, Martha Nye, Cathleen Gent, Taylor Yeats, Breck Knauft, Ian Stokes

Staff: Clare Rock, Geoffrey Urbanik, Peter Keating (CCRPC)

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Clare Rock, Town Planner, welcomed people and provided an overview of the planning process, project timeline and the expectation of re-writing the zoning following adoption of the new town plan.

Topic Presentation on Safe and Resilient Community by Clare Rock, Town Planner. Summary of Key Observations from Presentation and Discussion:

Resiliency is the ability for a community to prepare, withstand and respond to changes and disasters.

Climate changes (such as increased rain events) and social/behavior changes (increased drug usage) are the challenges.

The following four topics include areas which should be considered:

Basic Needs and Services - food supply; energy independence (even if you have solar panels doesn't mean you'll have power when the grid fails, there is no backup power at the town center building or at the schools); healthcare; biz planning & preparation; housing (esp. for vulnerable populations, what is Riverview Commons plan?); emergency shelters (the school doesn't have back up power, it isn't red cross certified); emergency services (police, fire, rescue all their department buildings have inadequate space for both safety and for equipment needs, town is starting feasibility study regarding a new public safety building)

Environmental and Natural Systems – river corridor and floodplains (Richmond has greatest # of NFIP polices in Chittenden County, current flood regs prohibit any new principal structures); sensitive natural areas (wetlands to purify water, but Huntington Gorge very dangerous, over 25 people died in Gorge); Farming and Forestry; open space and public access; invasive species.

Physical Infrastructure – roads and transport (peter will explain more in next section); cell and broadband; pubic and private infrastructure (the town was without water for 1 week in 2011, kneed to site a back up water source which is out of the floodplain); storm water management.

Community Connections and Capacity – leadership; planning (we have a LEOP, and a new draft AHMP, draft should be ready in March); Engagement (CRO’s initiative); Self sufficiency and preparations.

Clare Rock introduced Peter Keating, Transportation Planner for Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), CCRPC has been hired through CCRPC Technical Assistance Program to help the town with the Transportation Section of the Plan. Topic Presentation on Transportation and Mobility by Peter Keating, CCRPC Transportation Planner. Summary of Key Observations from Presentation and Discussion:

Traffic and volume counts through town have been slowly growing, Bridge Street has seen a slight decline (traffic counts don’t include the highway, CRPC could count wait times for traffic at peak times and could undertake a redesign study of RT2 and Bridge Street due to traffic counts and accidents)

Road Improvements include RT2 to be re-paved (2+ years), RT 117 will be repaved up to Jericho, and the Snipe Ireland Bridge will be replaced soon.

Town Bridges are in good shape.

Road Safety and accidents, Bridge Street and RT 2 Intersection ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the State for accidents.

Public transit, the park and ride in the largest in the state, (question about parking garage, they are very expensive, approx \$30,000 per space) CCTA will be redesigning their services next year, SSTA provides door-to-door service for disabled and elderly (aprox 20+ people).

Parking, Depot Street parking area is over capacity.

Richmond Village and Jonesville have been identified as possible places for satellite park and rides.

Sidewalks, improvements could include building sidewalk on the east side of Bridge Street, from Town center up to Toscanos, overall the sidewalks are not in great condition.

Bike, the railroad is reluctant to give some of their ROW for a bike path, when RT2 is repaved the state will widen the shoulder.

Discussion followed, including the following observations or comments:

Taylor Yeats provided an overview of the feasibility study for a new municipal Public Safety Building due to the inadequacies of the current spaces.

Participants then divided into 2 groups. Each group had the list of key observations, topic poster (including vision statement and what achieving our mission means), map, impact/feasibility chart, color codes post-it notes.

Each group was charged with reviewing the list of topic goals (aka “what achieving our mission means” from topic posters) and each group then brainstormed action items for each goal and posted (with sticky notes) on the topic posters.

Each group then prioritized the ideas by organizing the action items on the Impact/Feasibility Chart. Below is a listing of the action items followed by how they fell on the Impact/Feasibility Chart.

Impact/Feasibility Key:

**HI/HF = High Impact / High Feasibility**

**HI/LF = High Impact / Low Feasibility**

**HF /LI = High Feasibility / Low Impact**

**LF/LI = Low Feasibility / Low Impact**

### Safe and Self-Reliant Community

Richmond’s Vision is to nurture a **safe and resilient community** with strong volunteerism, and public services, caring and self-reliant neighbors, and a proactive approach to preparing for challenges.

- Fostering volunteerism, self- sufficiency and neighborliness (Blue)
  - Have volunteer recognition and recruitment events / reward and recognize volunteers **HI/HF**
  - Post public volunteer opportunities (bulletin board or in Times Ink newspaper) **HI/HF**
  - Continued support for Friday night food affair **HI/HF**
  - Recognize trend toward greater agricultural diversity **HI/HF**
  - Support local agricultural land and soil conservation **HI/HF**
  - Space for community gardens where most needed **HI/HF**
  - Public education series **HI/HF**
  - More block parties **HI/HF**
  - New public safety building **HI/LF**
- Proactively addressing emerging local, regional and global issues (Purple)
  - Improve use of town website and Nixle software for notifications **HI/HF**
  - Ongoing public classes / workshops on regional & global issues **HI/HF**
  - Public offered classes: drug use, etc / pro active education **HI/HF**
  - Part time emergency planner **HI/LF**
  - Grant writer position **HI/LF**
  - Finnish full EOP **HI/LF**
  - Recognize that storm water management needs to include promotion of vegetated **HI/LF**
  - Stream buffers and stronger limits of slope side development **HI/LF**
  - Reduce non-climate stresses on natural communities and habitats **HI/LF**
  - Create rural, mobile and integrated healthcare **HI/LF**

- New Public safety building **HI/LF**
- Anticipating and preparing for natural disasters and hazards (Yellow)
  - Improve emergency communications infrastructure **HI/HF**
  - Organize a network of resources/volunteers (FPF?) **HI/HF**
  - Make emergency alert resources known to all **HI/HF**
  - Evacuation plans **HI/HF& HI/LF**
  - New public safety building **HI/LF**
  - Support CRO's **HF/LI**
  - Fulltime emergency planner **LI/LF**
- Providing strong public services and public safety infrastructure (Teal)
  - Improve emergency shelter abilities and notifications (Masonic building siren) **HI/LF**
  - Better communication with officers to public and public to police **HI/LF**
  - Similar to neighborhood watch group, a neighborhood email coordinator to send info out to neighbors emails **HI/HF & HI/LF**
  - New public safety building **HF/LI**
  - Increase police service area, bring in revenue from other towns while increasing pool of quality community policing officers **HF/LI**
  - Prioritize health and wellness in zoning code building standards **HF/LI & LF/LI**
  - Create auxiliary for rescue, fire and rescue **LF/LI**
- Proactively working to reduce crime and drug use (Orange)
  - Inform people about drug use and what to look for (cars- what constitutes suspicious activity) **HI/HF**
  - Promote after school mentoring programs **HI/LF**
  - Attract pharmacy and addiction counseling to town/village emergency type response **HI/LF**
  - New public safety building **HI/LF**
  - Neighborhood watch **HI/HF & HI/LF**
- Supporting first responders and volunteers (Neon Green)
  - Get police out of the cars to meet people they see outside in the outlying neighborhoods **HI/HF**
  - Public acknowledgement of Volunteers Green (lets use it as such) **HI/HF**
  - New public safety building **HI/LF**
  - Better compensation **HI/LF**
  - Decrease cost of living **HI/LF**

### Mobility and Transportation Options

Richmond's Vision is to support safe, sustainable and convenient **mobility and transportation options**, so that people can bike, walk, ride and drive in Richmond and beyond.

- Increasing safe bicycle and pedestrian options in Richmond (Blue)
  - All bike lane stripping where possible on major roads in Richmond **HI/HF**
  - Bike and ped access on all roads into town (Huntington, Cochran, Jericho Rd,) **HI/HF**

- Larger shoulder on RT 2 for bike lane **HI/HF**
- Bike path or painted shoulder on Cochran Road **HI/HF**
- “Bump Out” for ped crossing at Toscano on Bridge Street **HI/HF & HI/LF**
- Actual bike and walking path off main roads **HI/LF**
- RT 117 & Gov Peck access to Park and Ride **HI/LF**
- Implement the long term plan for a travel/path between the village to the park and ride **HI/LF**
- Providing safe and convenient travel between downtown, neighborhoods, and key locations (purple)
  - Safe Routes to School program **HI/HF**
  - Study impact of school traffic on intersection traffic **HI/HF**
  - create incentives for kids to ride the bus **HI/HF**
  - Create corridor from intersection east to VYCC farm and to old Andrews farm, thru a forest rec path east **HI/HF**
  - East Main Street sidewalks improved on both sides **HI/HF**
  - Safety of RT 2 and Bridge Street intersection – study alternatives **HI/HF**
  - Incorporate village/pedestrian study into town plan **HI/HF**
  - Safe alternatives for downtown to park and ride **HI/HF & HI/LF**
  - Weekend, ight bus to and from Burlington **HI/HF & HI/LF**
  - Improve sidewalk on Bridge Street to Farr Road **HI/LF**
  - Green arrows at RT 2 Bridge St even without a turning lane **HI/LF**
  - Diagonal parking on Bridge Street makes it hard for 2 trucks to pass on Street **HI/LF**
  - Rethink Bridge Street to improve and make safer **HI/LF**
- Creating convenient connections to Chittenden County destinations and transportation systems (yellow)
  - Expand SSTA for more folks **HI/HF**
  - Bus pass subsidy program from larger employers **HI/HF**
  - Signage for parking lots **HI/HF**
  - App based system where folks can check into bus/can share stops/times **HI/HF**
  - Integrate wants / needs/ possible changes that are influx into town plan **HI/HF**
  - CCTA bus into downtown **HI/HF**
  - Extend Waterbury commuter to come thru the Village **HI/HF**
  - Park and ride in village **HI/HF**
  - Smaller park and ride lots for carpoolers **HI/HF**
  - Village CCTA bus stop **HI/HF & HI/LF**
  - Paying attention to cultural and societal changes in transportation wants and needs **HI/HF & HI/LF**
  - More hours for CCTA bus service nights and weekends **HI/HF & HI/LF**
  - Car share, uber or zip car **HI/LF**
  - More bike and ped links to Park and Ride, its not safe to walk **HI/LF**
  - No diagonal parking on Bridge Street, improve landscaping and put parking somewhere else and add bike racks **HI/LF**
  - Railroad service and rail stop **LF/LI**
- Increasing sustainable and affordable public transportation options (teal)
  - Investigate “feeder route” buses (like into Jericho) that would sync with the Link

**Bus HI/HF**

- How to make money for CCTA for smaller link buses, Apps? To increase usage **HI/HF**
- School to sledding hill path to Park and Ride **HI/HF**
- The full park and ride is a barrier to local usage **HI/HF**
- Parking garage at Park and Ride? **HI/LF**
- Bike parking at park and ride, under cover bike parking (are there any theft issues?) **HI/LF**

Each group then reported back to whole group on the work of their respective groups.

Parting comments from participants included:

On the topic of Safe and Resilient Community – increase interaction between police and public; increase communications and notifications; increase community gardens; and increase public education

On the topic of transportation and mobility:

Improve walkways into the village; could do a lot with white paint; use the Willis Sledding Hill as a walking access between school and park and ride; consider an intersection study for the Bridge Street/RT2 intersection; small satellite park and rides and wayfinding signs; bus route along RT2 between Waterbury and Richmond; ensure language in town plan to recognize all the dynamic options, such as app based on-demand systems (Uber, zip car); bike racks and covered bike racks.

Clare Rock thanked everyone for coming and reminded people of the next Planning Night on March 2, 2016. After all the planning nights we will be hosting a mapping workshop which will use information from each planning night and map out a future land use map for Richmond.





