

**R I C H M O N D   S E L E C T B O A R D  
R E G U L A R   M E E T I N G  
J u l y   2 0 ,   2 0 1 5   M I N U T E S**

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Members Present: David Sander; Bard Hill; Taylor Yeates; Ellen Kane;  
Absent: Lincoln Bressor

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Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Gary Bressor; Ian Bender; Peter Gosselin, Road Foreman; John Rankin; Jon Low; Leland Smith; Cynthia Silvey; Helene Arnold; Bob Low; Earl and Diane Wester; Rod West; Gretchen Paulsen; Meg Howard; Elizabeth Wright; Cara LaBounty; Fritz Martin and other; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

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David Sander called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**1. Welcome and Public Comment**

Mr. Sander explained that the items under section 2 will be moved to section one in light of the crowd that is likely here to speak to the Traffic Ordinance and parking prohibition on Dugway Road.

Mr. Sander asked if there was any comment from the public for items not on the agenda.

Jon Low asked about the loose gravel on the bottom of Wes White Hill, and Peter Gosselin said he could answer that when it is his turn on the agenda.

Ear Wester said that at the last meeting someone said something about the Greystone storm water system that was factually incorrect. He said they had reported the two inlet basins at the bottom of his property at the road were 18 inches but they were actually 24 inches, going to an eight foot by six foot basin. This was functioning well but the driveway culvert was plugged during the storm and wasn't able to handle the flow from that storm, causing the water to flow across the road.

Ms. Kane thanked the police for their service and presence in town.

**2. Ordinances for First Reading**

Traffic Ordinance

Mr. Hill wanted to explain the history of the amendments of this ordinance. Mary Houle said that the proposed parking prohibition on Dugway Road was not previously discussed and asked how it made it onto this agenda.

Mr. Yeates explained the amendments to the traffic ordinance. The first changes were to establish a speed limit of 15 miles per hour on the village streets and the second change was to put forward a parking prohibition on Dugway Road to limit access to the gorge area. He said this was up for a discussion and he never intended that this would remove parking entirely but he wanted a discussion. He didn't want to stop swimming in the Huntington River, but remove or limit access to the gorge area. He said that since 1950 there have been 26 deaths there, and 12 since 1990 and felt we should talk about how we make the area more safe.

1 Mr. Hill said that the ordinance has two parts, the first being the speed limits in village streets. He  
2 noted that Tilden Avenue and Baker Street were not on the list, and there was a question as to  
3 whether we could establish a 15 mile per hour speed limit or not.  
4

5 Ms. Kane agreed and said we should have some ground rules for this discussion, with people being  
6 allowed to speak once, and then a second time after everyone else has had their chance.  
7

8 The Manager was directed to determine whether or not a 15 mile per hour limit was possible on  
9 these streets, and to make sure the village street list was complete.  
10

11 There was then significant discussion about the parking ban and how people use the gorge area  
12 now.  
13

14 Mr. Sander thanked the large audience for attending tonight's meeting. Ms. Kane said the intent of  
15 preventing deaths is a good one but she wasn't sure that a parking ban was the way to go.  
16

17 Mr. Hill said he was not in favor of modifying or filling in the gorge and a parking ban is a  
18 uniquely blunt instrument. He wasn't sure this was finely tuned enough, or appropriate but maybe  
19 we could brainstorm a different signage strategy.  
20

21 Mr. Yeats said he disagreed that a parking ban on the entire road would do little but around the  
22 gorge it would discourage people from using it.  
23

24 Mr. Sander said this was a valid safety concern but you can't legislate the danger away with a  
25 parking ban. The floor was then open to the public.  
26

27 Matthew Whittel said that we were using imprecise language to describe the gorge. There was the  
28 lower gorge, upper gorge and triple buckets.  
29

30 Jon Low said that the bridge (Bridge Street bridge, with people sometimes jumping from it) was a  
31 manmade object and the gorge was not. Trying to regulate the gorge was a bad precedent.  
32

33 Meg Howard said she has lived across from the gorge for many years. There are safety concerns  
34 that take an enormous toll on our resources. She appreciates this burden for the town, but said  
35 since the parking lot was put in the culture has changed. She didn't feel that a parking ban would  
36 change behavior there.  
37

38 Rod West said there is now no safe place to swim there, since after Irene a large rock had fallen  
39 into the middle of the river at the outlet of the upper gorge. He said Chief Buck was looking for  
40 different signage on the road.  
41

42 Patty Brushett said that since the road was redone last year there are now fewer places to park on  
43 Dugway to get to the gorge and there needed to be more parking, and many people had given  
44 money to the Richmond Land Trust to preserve some land there and the only way to access it was  
45 to park on the side of the road.  
46

47 Gretchen Paulsen said there wasn't enough parking for the lower gorge areas. There were lots of  
48 falls and waterways that she has been to with fencing where you can look but not swim.  
49

1 Fritz Martin, of the Richmond Land Trust, said that the town can bring awareness to the safety  
2 issue and concentrate on the dangerous parts of the gorge.  
3

4 Bob Low said what we have are two issues: the first is parking and the second is safety at the top  
5 of the gorge. If you just concentrate on parking you should understand people use the road for  
6 walking, fishing, education and other reasons also. If you are concerned about safety you should  
7 address that directly.  
8

9 Leland Smith said that the parking ban on the bottom of Wes White Hill wasn't deterring anyone  
10 from using the river but was pushing the parking problem onto Cochran Road. If you eliminate  
11 parking you're only blocking the people less determined. He said the safety was the main issue,  
12 not parking. Elizabeth Wright agreed with Mr. Smith. There was a discussion about perhaps  
13 updating the sign to include recent victims.  
14

15 Gary Bressor said that when he bought the gorge 10 years ago he looked at options for safety. He  
16 did put up some signs and changed things somewhat. He said that the \$175 fine proposed here  
17 also went onto the private parking lot and he didn't feel that was right.  
18

19 Ian Bender said he lived across from the triple buckets area. He said that safety was an issue, and  
20 now the road was narrow and one lane in the summer. He said there has been a lot of swimming  
21 and traffic in the summer, but the gorge will continue to claim lives.  
22

23 Bob Low said this was a navigable waterway and surrounded by private property. He asked why  
24 the parking ban came up.  
25

26 Mr. Yeates said that he wrote the proposal while updating the ordinance for the village speed  
27 limits. He had spoken to several people about this and they agreed that something should be done  
28 here.  
29

30 Cara LaBounty said that we had heard from the Land Trust and Gary Bressor and if signage was  
31 needed then the town and Mr. Yeates should work with them for better signage and parking.  
32

33 John Rankin asked about the eliminated parking from the gravel work. The Manager said that this  
34 was not intentional but the adding of 15 inches of gravel and roadside ditching eliminated some  
35 parking on the roadsides.  
36

37 David Sander said the board should ask for a committee on the gorge, to study parking and safety.  
38 Mr. Hill agreed that the two issues were parking and safety and they were related, but distinct. Ms.  
39 Kane said she wanted to see a plan for better signage.  
40

41 More comments were made, mostly focusing on the concern for more parking and signage for  
42 either parking limits or safety concerns. Mr. Sander said that we needed to examine these issues  
43 and people who were interested should contact the Town Manager by email if they were interested  
44 in serving on a committee.  
45

46 Mr. Yeates offered a motion to strike section 6 amendments from the proposed amendments to the  
47 traffic ordinance and was seconded by Ms. Kane and the motion carried 4-0.  
48

1 Mr. Yeates offered a motion to table the remaining items on the traffic ordinance until August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2 for examination of the details of the revisions to section 3 and was seconded by Ms. Kane and the  
3 motion carried 4-0.

4  
5 Animal Control Ordinance

6  
7 Mr. Yeates offered a motion to approve the Animal Control Ordinance for first reading and hold  
8 the second reading and public hearing on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the Town Center meeting  
9 room. Ms. Kane seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

10  
11 The Manager was directed to put the revised, marked up version on the website.

12  
13 **3. Items for Presentation with Those Present**

14  
15 Greystone Drive Repairs

16  
17 Highway Foreman Peter Gosselin was present to discuss Greystone Drive and the gravel and paving  
18 plans. Mr. Gosselin presented a plan to come up with \$110,000 to repair the roads from the June 9<sup>th</sup>  
19 storm. He had spent about \$30,000 to date and had about another \$15,000 in repairs. This would  
20 leave \$80,000 left to repair Greystone. The changes to the road plans include eliminating Snipe  
21 Ireland Road from the gravel plan this year and eliminating the short section of Hillview Road from  
22 the paving plan.

23  
24 Mr. Gosselin went on to say that he felt that the town was going too far with the Greystone Drive  
25 repair, and that the town should stick with the restoration of the right of way only. The repair of the  
26 slope was 90% on private property, 10% right of way and FEMA wouldn't pay for repairs on private  
27 property. He felt that he could sink precast blocks into the slope next to the road, and build the right-  
28 of-way back from there. He said we have hired our own engineer, so he wasn't going to design this  
29 fix.

30  
31 There was some discussion on Mr. Gosselin's report and suggestions. Cara LaBounty asked if this fix  
32 would address the storm water problems that led to the failure.

33  
34 Jon Low asked if "plant mix" gravel could be added to the areas on lower West White Hill that were  
35 affected by the flooding and Mr. Gosselin said he would do that, similar to what was done on Cochran  
36 Road, while awaiting pavement restoration.

37  
38 There was some additional discussion on the approach to this. The Manager said that the State was  
39 submitting a claim to FEMA but word on whether or not a disaster would be declared was weeks  
40 away. Finding additional monies to repair the road would need to wait, but for now staff had direction  
41 on how to handle the upcoming road plans.

42  
43 Mr. Gosselin reported on the Huntington Road culvert replacement and said that the road closure last  
44 week was unforeseen and due to unstable soil around the one lane that was open. He said that the  
45 project should be finished in less than two weeks.

46  
47 The Selectboard thanked Mr. Gosselin for coming in to speak.

48  
49 **4. Other Business**

50

1 Reserve Fund Balances Discussion

2  
3 The Manager reported on the reserve fund balances for the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>.

4

Fund Name	Notes	6-30-15 Balance
Town Center	Upcoming rents for the year will be about \$133,000	\$83,546.40
Library Reserve Fund		\$1,689.96 – Fundraising \$30,186.21 Reserve
Fire Department Reserve Fund	This is the current balance but the fund has more in it, following our short-term note. I expect we'll have around \$50,000 in this following the final payment for delivery of the truck.	\$5,633.93
Conservation Reserve Fund	No pending projects	\$219,418.65
Police Reserve	This account is in deficit, with the current year appropriation of \$2,000 it will correct this error.	-\$1,395.49
Fire Impact Fees	Some to be used in purchase of Fire Truck.	\$14,470.20
Highway Reserve		\$69,896.33
Bridge & Culvert Reserve		\$264,445.07
Rainy Day Reserve	About \$20,000 expected from eventual sale of Bordeaux property will reimburse this fund.	\$66,919.48
Listers Education Reserve		\$2,548.45
Reappraisal Reserve		\$124,352.88

5  
6 River Float Update

7  
8 The Manager explained that he had heard from Mr. Trimboli and he was now working with the  
9 LaBountys to solve parking and organization concerns, which was encouraging. He said that the  
10 town's concerns and approach to this event should not change although it was good to know that  
11 people coming to this event would have a sense of where to go and how the event was to take place.

12  
13 Ms. Kane said she had read the letter from the Vermont State Police to Mr. Trimboli, regarding the  
14 initial draft of the event permit. She said that the State Police had written some serious concerns. The  
15 Manager acknowledged this and said that this was the first draft, and he wasn't sure if Mr. Trimboli  
16 was going to submit a final or not, but that wasn't the town's thing to handle. He said that it appeared  
17 Mr. Trimboli was trying to address these concerns but the town shouldn't address them or help Mr.  
18 Trimboli address them.

19  
20 Cara LaBounty reported that from what she and Mr. Trimboli worked out, the event will start at noon  
21 and last about 3 hours for the trip down from Jonesville to Richmond. Parking would be at the farm in  
22 Jonesville. There are stops for trash and asked if there was any objection to them placing portable  
23 toilets at Volunteers Green.

1  
2 There was some discussion, and the Selectboard agreed that they could place portable toilets and  
3 perhaps a trash bin at Volunteers Green, without endorsing the event. There was some discussion on  
4 how many people to expect in town that day, but it was too variable to predict.

5  
6 Disposal of used Police Vehicle

7  
8 Mr. Sander said this was in regard to the 2011 Chevy Caprice police cruiser. This was a police  
9 purpose vehicle with no civilian counterpart and it was so new it was hard to understand what the  
10 market for this vehicle was. He said he felt that it was not wise to retain this vehicle for any town use,  
11 following its replacement in the police fleet. He said that the police chief had provided some  
12 documentation on a suggested value, which showed \$8,500.

13  
14 The Manager asked if Richmond Rescue was still interested in this vehicle, and Mr. Yeates said no,  
15 they were not.

16  
17 There was some discussion, but the board agreed that the vehicle should be auctioned, with a  
18 minimum or reserve value of \$8,500.

19  
20 Amendment to Road Schedule: Sylvan Knoll

21  
22 The Manager explained that the town's Road Naming Ordinance required the Selectboard to pass a  
23 resolution amending Schedule A for new road names. This was to prevent duplicate or improper road  
24 naming. Eden Sand and Gravel had bought the former Livak property on Kenyon Road and was  
25 planning a nine-lot subdivision where the house is now, with a road called Sylvan Knoll.

26  
27 Ms. Kane offered a motion to approve a resolution amending the Schedule A of road names to include  
28 a private road Sylvan Knoll. Mr. Yeates seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-0.

29  
30 SunCommon Request

31  
32 The Manager explained that SunCommon was a solar energy company and wanted to hold a barbeque  
33 in the park to promote their business. The park ordinance prohibits commercial activities in  
34 Volunteers Green but this wasn't a commercial sale event but more of a promotion where nothing was  
35 sold or contracts signed. He wanted clarity how the ordinance should be interpreted.

36  
37 The Selectboard discussed the issue, and determined that if such an event was in support of a charity  
38 or for a charitable purpose then they could do so. If it was just to promote their commercial business  
39 then they should not be allowed to hold the barbeque there.

40  
41 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

42  
43 Economic Development – Ms. Kane reported that this month there was no meeting of the committee,  
44 but they were actively seeking new members and thinking about changing the times of the meetings to  
45 better suit the membership.

46  
47 The Manager noted the Works in Progress, the Police Report and the budget status report, which the  
48 board reviewed.

49

1 The Manager reported that the Town Plan steering committee was continuing to gather information  
2 through surveys and activities. Further activities would be held in September and October. Mr.  
3 Yeates said he received the most positive feedback about the chalkboard being at the Richmond  
4 Market.

5  
6 Creamery Update – The Manager reported that he, Clare and Niels spoke with the buyer’s  
7 representative, Josi Kytle, last week about scheduling. Things appear positive on their end. They  
8 want to file a plan for remediation of the site, which they say will cost more than initial estimates.  
9 During that time, they will come to the Selectboard to review their plan and file for a demolition  
10 permit. Such permits are normally handled administratively, but the twist here is that we anticipated a  
11 remediation plan filed in conjunction with a development plan – which they are not prepared to  
12 present at this time. Our comments can run concurrent with their state-required comment period on  
13 their plans, and the general public can weigh in on both. This is planned for the end of August  
14 timeframe. Further out, they plan on gathering some ideas for full use of the site within our interim  
15 zoning and ultimately will make application with the Selectboard for what will likely be a winter-  
16 timed review/approval process.

17  
18 East Main Street Update - The bond passed for the water project. This will be a Summer 2016 project  
19 for the Water Commission. In other news, the Selectboard should discuss how and when to take up  
20 the streetscape process. The Manager proposed another review by the current board of the streets  
21 project.

22  
23 The Manager also reported that the Sterling House driveway culvert had been replaced, although with  
24 a smaller culvert than the original. Since the original was crushed for some time, the smaller culvert  
25 may still flow the water appropriately. The Water Commission was going to seek a claim against  
26 them for the direct cost of the repair to the water line from June 9<sup>th</sup>.

27  
28 The Manager also noted the letter from the Planning Commission to start a public safety committee to  
29 review needs for future emergency services, including a new site for a building.

### 30 31 Warrants

32  
33 Mr. Yeates objected to the Library’s note for a check to be cut for postage, and to an event performer  
34 Tom Joyce. He said invoices needed to be received and the library should use the town’s postage  
35 meter. There was some discussion on these items. The Manager said he would speak to the library  
36 about the history of their postage use and if performers could submit invoices ahead of time. The  
37 warrants were approved and signed.

### 38 39 Approval of Minutes

40  
41 Mr. Yeates offered a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2015 as amended and was seconded by  
42 Mr. Sander. The motion carried 3-0-1 with Ms. Kane abstaining.

### 43 44 Access Permit #15-065

45  
46 The Manager explained that the access permit was as Mr. Gosselin described, with the driveway  
47 requiring widening per the public work spec. Mr. Yeates offered a motion to approve the access  
48 permit #15-065 for 2817 Huntington Road and was seconded by Ms. Kane, and the motion carried 4-0.

### 49 50 Purchase Orders

1  
2 The Manager presented a purchase order and contract for KAS Consulting for the Greystone Drive  
3 Repair. Mr. Yeates offered a motion to approve Purchase Order #2556 in an amount not to exceed  
4 \$17,310 to KAS Consulting for the Greystone Drive repair, and was seconded by Mr. Hill. The  
5 motion carried 4-0.

6  
7 **5. Adjourn**

8 Motion by Mr. Yeates to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Kane. So voted.