

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Richmond Unveils Draft Community Vision

Community invited to celebration and open house on September 12

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Richmond, VT— Over the past three months, community volunteers have collected nearly 850 comments, survey responses, interviews and other input from people who live, work and play in Richmond. Now they are about to unveil a new draft community vision based on that input. The community is invited to learn more and offer feedback at the Vision Unveiling: a celebration and open house to be held from 9 AM – 12 PM on Saturday, September 12 at Camel's Hump Middle School in Richmond.

Richmond's Our Town, Our Future process set out to use creative ways of reaching a diverse section of the Richmond community and finding out what they love about the town and want for its future. A local Town Plan Steering Committee, in partnership with the Planning Commission, invited feedback in a number of different formats and locations. Nearly 400 people completed surveys; committee members conducted 32 detailed interviews with community members; and hundreds of people shared their ideas on a chalkboard wall and at events like Richmond's 4th of July celebration and farmer's market.

The committee used all of that input to draft a 20-year vision for Richmond's future, which includes eleven core themes: affordability and a reasonable cost of living; a community for all ages; economic opportunity; history and traditions; mobility and transportation options; natural and working lands; safe and resilient community; small town character; social and recreational offerings; transparent and inclusive decision-making; and a vibrant and appealing downtown.

"We have been astounded by the response from the community, including the number of people who have participated and the great ideas for Richmond," said Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, "We look forward to confirming this vision with the community and start turning it into reality."

The committee will solicit public input on the draft vision at the Vision Unveiling event on the 12th, as well as online at www.richmondvtfuture.weebly.com. Once input is received and the vision statement finalized, it will inform a new community-supported Town Plan.

The Vision Unveiling event will offer a combination of information, feedback opportunities, and celebration. The Steering Committee is organizing food, music and kids activities, as well as engaging opportunities for people to see the draft vision, provide feedback, and help identify and prioritize

strategies for Richmond. It will include a short presentation at 9:30, and community members can walk through the open house event at any time from 10-12. Additional community workshops and events will follow this fall to help the community make choices and prioritize strategies for the Town Plan.

The Our Town, Our Future process is supported by Richmond's Town Planner, Clare Rock; Community Workshop LLC, a small Vermont consulting firm; and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. The project is in part funded by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

To learn more about the project and get involved, visit the Our Town, Our Future website at richmondvtfuture.weebly.com, join our email list, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram at [@richmondvtfuture](https://www.facebook.com/richmondvtfuture). For additional information contact the Richmond Town Office at 802.434.5170 or richmondvtfuture@gmail.com.

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