

Richmond Selectboard Meeting Minutes

6/17/19

Called to Order: 7:04pm

Present: Roger Brown, Bard Hill, David Sander, Christy Witters, Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper, Don Morin, Fran Huntoon, Scott Nickerson, Rebecca Rouiller, Bob Reap, Heidi Bormann, Cathleen Gent, Jon Kart, Mary Houle, Alison Chase, Marie Thomas, Logan Hegg

Public Comment: Mary Houle made a statement about road side mowing and that she does not approve of the quality of the mowing. She believes the mowing remnants are dangerous to road side pedestrians or riders.

Josh asked to add East Main Street Outfall Project added to the agenda.

Water Sewer Commission Interviews:

Don Morin offered to go first in interviews. Don explained that he has a background in engineering and owns property in the village. He said he has time for the water sewer commission at this time and offers a lot in experience with water treatment facilities. He expressed reservations about spending extra time on the commission but wants to give back to the community. He said he would not be affected if he did not get the seat, but would like to use his skills to help the system plan for the future. Roger asked if he had any current suggested changes to how the water system runs. Don said he has some overhead cost concerns, but overall has more concern for retaining businesses.

Fran Huntoon introduced herself, she said she would like to be reappointed and has served for 3 years. She said she is a system user, and has been involved in the efforts to stabilize rates and capital improvements. She said she would like to continue to be involved in ongoing projects. Roger asked Fran the same question regarding changes. She said she thought the board has been doing a good job trying to balance updates and costs but had no particular proposed changes.

Bob Reap introduced himself. He said he has over 30 years of experience in contracting, and is a user in the village and potential user in the gateway. He feels the group works well together and would like to continue. Roger asked Bob the same question about changes. Bob said he feels many major issues have been getting addressed, but does think the system needs to grow to help reduce overall costs.

Bard observed that one of the stated purposes was to balance new people and board stability and continuity. He said it's his personal observation that groups work better with diversity and fresh views. Christy said it was good to see people with experience offering to serve on the commission. Bard commented that the water and sewer commission recommended to reappoint the existing members Bob and Fran.

Roger moved to accept the recommendation of the water and sewer commission. Bard seconded the motion. Christy said she would really like to bring Don on board and differentiated that Fran is a resident user versus a landowner user. Roger withdrew his motion. Christy moved to appoint Fran and Don to the commission. Bard seconded the motion. Roger said he thought it was relevant to point out that Bob may be affected by the extension. Bob clarified that he did live in the village as a user for ten years. Bard

voted in favor, Christy voted in favor, and David voted in favor. Roger voted no. Motion passed. Don and Fran were appointed to the commission. Bob said he felt that he was booted off the commission. Bard said he felt that the town has made an effort to encourage new people to participate and didn't feel the vote was meant to kick Bob off the commission. Roger said he thinks it's difficult to make that distinction.

Art Crawl: Rebecca and Alison proposed an event that is town-wide along Bridge Street where artwork could be viewed on a Sunday the weekend of VT Open Studio weekend. They are proposing 30-50 vendor spaces. They are asking if they could use the angle parking spaces along the road. Roger suggested approaching the bank about their spot. Discussion ensued about locations being used or blocked off. The topic turned to food trucks and competition with local businesses. Rebecca followed up with a proposal to come back to the board at a later date.

Bike/Pedestrian Grant: Josh explained that the grant application is not complete, but we are asking for an approval of a rough outline with a figure not to exceed a specified amount. Josh also explained that the board could reject the funding if they change their mind or don't agree with the parameters. Jon explained that the work has to commence by 2023 and does have a lead time for engineering and plans. Jon said that last time we discussed the grant we looked at the multi-use path from the village to the park and ride, but could not get guidance from VTrans. Jon said they would rather focus on Bridge Street sidewalk upgrades. He said a few parts of the plans from 2010 could be eligible for this funding. He clarified that they are interested in installing new sidewalks on the east side of Bridge Street. Cathleen said that the project is compatible with public works improvements and would like to work this into those projects. Roger said he would hesitate to spend money on Bridge Street when other roads don't have any sidewalk. He said the first half mile of Cochran Road, part of Huntington Road, Southview to the school, trailer park to the park and ride, and others would benefit more. Jon explained that we have to have existing plans and costs to be eligible for the grant. Christy said she doesn't want to give up on the first phase of the multi-use path and prefers that project over Bridge St. Bard asked about the match. Cathleen said the cost is about \$200,000 and has a 20% match. Bard said Southview and the Park and Ride would be preferable, or projects that complete connections. Mary said that she hears repeatedly about sidewalks on both sides of Bridge St. and feels that there is sufficient sidewalk when there are few residences on the road itself. Roger asked if the multi-use path was still an option. Discussion ensued about costs of different phases for the multi-use path. Roger moved to approve applying for the grant for the green phase of the multi-use path that would follow route 2. Seconded by Bard. All were in favor, so moved. Roger moved to make Josh the grant manager. Seconded by Bard Hill. All were in favor, so moved.

Planning Commission Update: Scott explained that the commission has voted to put the Jolina Court District to a public hearing. Jessica explained how the ratio has changed. Bard said he has a concern about reducing commercial. Discussion ensued about the ratio of uses. Jessica explained the new definitions of commercial, residential, and non-residential. Bard said that looking to the future residential space will stay that way for the foreseeable future. Roger discussed that commercial space and residential space can be designed to be versatile from one to the other. Roger said he felt that the 3rd building needs to be built and built 100% commercial on a set time frame. He said he thinks Buttermilk needs to be held to their commitment and maybe needs pressure. Christy said that people are not in favor of higher residential and it was supposed to be a place where people could live and work in the same place. Heidi said she agrees with Christy and thinks that they should be held to what was

originally agreed to. Scott clarified that the 45 units was part of the interim zoning. Roger expressed that the town needs to find a mechanism to require more of the developer in terms of uses and timing. Jessica read the list of commercial uses.

Subcommittee: Bard explained that they decided not to pursue the parking bonus, but were pursuing the energy bonus and affordability bonus. Jessica asked if they might be interested in commercial use being a type of bonus. Christy asked a clarifying question about the number of units. Jessica explained the number of units requested is now up to 56 across the parcel. Discussion ensued about how to require certain types of buildings and certain numbers of units in each building across the development. Jessica discussed the claim that their commercial is too expensive. Heidi said that she has sent 3 potential tenants to them and for some reason it did not work out. Jessica said there is demand but supposedly the cost of the construction is increasing the cost of space. Bard explained that the tax stabilization discussion resulted in an offer that it could be provided for a commercial cost reduction to a potential tenant. Roger said he would like to look for there to be a mechanism to force the price down or find a different developer and potentially change the allowed commercial uses. Jessica reminded everyone that they do still have an approval for building 2 at 20 apartments and a mixed commercial use.

Traffic Light: Josh explained that there were new discussions with the Bridge Street light. Bard said he felt this was still frustrating and very little progress over several years of pushing. Larry Muldoon met with someone onsite and similar discussions were had in the past about the limitations on what can be changed. They have agreed to put in signage about extended green lights.

Rec Grant: Jessica gave an update on the recreation committee grant efforts. There will be an interest meeting next Wednesday on a joint recreation committee. Mary suggested that the idea about having a recreation director being revived. Christy said she agreed that a director would be beneficial because it tends to be too much work for volunteers. Marie brought up the RiseVT action team efforts and that the three towns could potentially split the cost to help coordinate the shared activities. Christy pointed out that the RES PE teacher is shouldering a lot of the recreation for children in the area. Mary said that the children are the future and that enough land has been conserved. Marie pointed out the high demand for OCCC, and that recreation efforts could help take on some of that demand. Discussion ensued about age groups.

Development Fee Ordinance: Jessica explained the fee ordinance issue regarding changes and new recording fees. Roger moved to repeal the development fee ordinance. Seconded by Bard. All were in favor, so moved. Bard moved to set the repeal ordinance for July 15th. Seconded by Roger. All were in favor, so moved.

Utility Connection Permit Fees: Jessica explained the new fees. Bard moved to approve the proposed Water Resources Department Fees. Seconded by Christy. All were in favor, so moved. Jessica clarified that these would be effective upon the official repeal of the ordinance.

Grant in Aid Letter: Bard moved to approve the letter. Seconded by Christy. All were in favor, so moved.

Access Permit: Bard moved to approve the access permit. Christy seconded. Christy asked about why the elm trees would need to be removed. Mary said she believed Sumner would not be doing the removal if it was not necessary because he is a good steward of land. All were in favor, so moved.

Audit Letter: David explained that the auditors sent a scope letter for the upcoming audit. Roger moved to approve the letter. Christy seconded. Roger asked if we could look into other policies or costs and if we could see what another cost bracket might get us. Roger said he didn't think it was appropriate that they monkeyed around with the surplus figures. Mary said that the town should dictate what is in the scope of work. Roger said he wants to know what is appropriate for a town our size and would not vote to approve the letter. Comparable towns and the bid process were discussed. Jessica pointed out that the auditing for towns varies widely. All were in favor, so moved.

Vermont Youth Pilot Program: Josh explained that Robin Katrick proposed Richmond be a part of a survey pilot program for youth outreach. Financial support is not required, and Josh was just looking into any concerns. Bard moved to support the program. Seconded by Roger. All were in favor, so moved.

Selectboard Email: Josh explained the potential \$4 per user outlook style program. Josh said that generic email could also be an option. Bard moved to move forward with new emails. Christy seconded. All were in favor, so moved.

Update on CSWD Lease: Lease expires next spring. Discussion ensued about old town dumps. Logan gave a brief update about potential efforts between him and CSWD to discuss reuse. He said he would let the board know where meetings are posted so that the selectboard members could attend CSWD board meetings that are upcoming.

Paving: David said he has traveled on the new pavement and it is quieter than the Waterbury section. He said his bigger concern was whether it would hold up over time.

RipRap Tour: Meeting next Monday to tour the RipRap and will be warned as a special board meeting. Christy mentioned that landscape plans could be developed by partnering with the Intervale.

East Main Update: Josh said the cost is too prohibitive for this fiscal year, will be pursued for next year.

Minutes: Bard moved to approve. Seconded by Christy. All were in favor, so moved.

Purchase Orders: Bard moved to approve the FY20 gravel Purchase Order. Seconded by Christy. All were in favor so moved.

CW1, RB2, executive part 1

CW1, BH2, executive part 2

10:09pm

Exit: