

Selectboard Minutes 10-21-19

Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Katie Mather, Roger Brown, Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper, Jack Linn, Mary Houle, Chris Conant, Curt Carter, Michael Lawler, Mike Storrs, Larry Smith, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Dawn Ferringo, Caitlin Littlefield, Karen Clark, Tamie Martel, Connie Van Eeghen, Jana Brown, Angelike Contis, Molly Hall, Tracey Shamberger, Charlotte Blend, John Rankin

Called to Order: 7:04pm

Public Comment: Mary commented thanks to Andy Aldrich for the donated replacement tree at the Round Church. She also commented an apology that she may smell from rotten tomato juice she accidentally dumped today. She also announced that as of tomorrow she will be a certified hemp grower.

Conservation Commission: Josh explained that there are two new vacancies from Mary Houle and Guy Roberts departures. Kaitlin Littlefield has requested to take Guy's spot. The other one remains vacant. Kaitlin spoke on behalf of herself. Roger moved to appoint Kaitlin. Bard seconded the motion. All were in favor, so moved. Roger asked to make sure we solicit publicly for open seats. Mary commented that the selectboard expanded the conservation commission to 9 members in the past and the interest fluctuates. Roger asked Jack Linn about it as well, Jack said he was pleased with the new appointment and thinks the current status is okay. Mary said she would like to see these kinds of in depth discussions about paid positions instead of volunteer positions.

Health Insurance: Josh discussed that the town is looking into more affordable options for health insurance for employees. He explained the difference between police insurance and other employee insurance. He noted the 14.4% increase in premiums is triggering this discussion. He introduced Larry Smith from VLCT to present options. Larry provided a handout comparing the current BCBS plan with a potential MVP Plan that is eligible for an HSA and adding an HRA. Larry briefly explained HSA and HRA. Discussion ensued about the deductible and out of pocket max for individual employees and how the HSA travels with the employee. Roger said he feels that this mostly maintains the benefits and that in most cases the employees will have more coverage with HRA and HSA available. Roger noted that one of the negatives is that the payments are heavier and occur sooner in the year with the Gold option. Roger said he would like feedback from the employees by the next meeting. Roger suggested that even if the police do not agree to this plan, he would like to pursue it for everyone else.

Appropriation Requests: Mary said that she wants to remind the Board that the appropriation request forms are to be filled out correctly and completely before they are even allowed to come to ask for funds. She said that partial forms should not be accepted.

OCCC: Representatives from OCCC provided a presentation about food insecurity and how OCCC addresses that. They provided 2019 summer statistics. Connie explained that Marie has done this for the last 11 years with no salary compensation. She explained that she's asking for bridge funding in order to get off the ground in her absence. 28% of the camp is Richmond residents. She said that the \$20,000+ request is a big deal but wanted to show the impact on the tax payers. She noted that a 200,000

property would be approximately an \$8 on the tax bill. Karen also noted that the bookkeeper, Linda Parent, has stepped down as well. Katie asked about other town contributions and other town's camps. Mary Houle commented that Marie is irreplaceable but asked if it was possible to ask the new director to work on structuring funding and what will happen without the funding. Connie said that the camp will not happen without the funding but the new staff person would be working on securing funding. Bard said he has concerns about making such a large increase. Bard suggested an article at town meeting. The representatives said they felt that was appropriate.

AgeWell: Tracy Shamberger introduced herself as the representative for AgeWell. She thanked Richmond for past support. She explained how AgeWell works with other groups on aging. She said they serve Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle. She said they serve 60+ and under 60 with disabilities. Last year they served 85 people, and expect to serve 105-120 people. They are not asking for an increase to their appropriation from previous years. She said that Vermont has the second highest aging population and that number will double in the next few years. She said their services are free and is not income-proof based.

Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS): The representative from COTS explained that they provide shelter for various purposes and also do homelessness prevention. They provided prevention to 5 families in Richmond, including 10 children. She said that this year's families are having trouble at higher annual incomes at around the 50% AMI rate compared to the 30-40% of the past. She said high housing cost is a major part of that pressure.

Front Porch Forum: Bard said that he feels that they provide a service for communication beyond the value of the request.

GBIC: Representative explained they are a regional economic development corp. Their focus is on business bringing money into the state through services and manufacturing. He explained some of their support is from the state and businesses. He said they were involved in the creamery project back in 2012 and 2013. Mary asked what the total program budget was and said that the application was not properly filled out.

Hale and Hearty: Mike Storrs presented on behalf of Hale and Hearty. He said they are a group of seniors that have potlucks and a few field trips a year. He explained that they have \$3 dues. He said each member pays about \$25 for the trip and the cost is actually over \$100 per person generally. Katie asked if they have looked at other sources. Mary said that this is solely a Richmond group, and that we cannot ignore the older age group.

Howard Center: Bard noted the COP program.

Lake Iroquois Association: Chris Conant introduced himself and Jack Linn as a member of the association and representative from the recreation district. Chris explained that Richmond has appropriated \$400-600 for the past 13 years. He said they are asking for another \$1000 to help fund the greeter program. The greeter program inspects boats for invasive and washes them with a hot water system which is more effective at preventing the spread of invasives. They want to increase coverage of the access and

are planning to go after herbicide treatment again in the near future. He said 70% of the lake is covered in milfoil. Jack presented aerial photos of the significant milfoil patches. Jack said the permits have significantly dropped in popularity due to the lake quality.

LUND: Charlotte from LUND explained the work that they do, and she said that the Richmond numbers have increased more than double. She explained that next year is the 130th anniversary of helping families including adoption and foster services, mental health residential facilities for children, outpatient substance use and prevention treatment, and parent-child services such as parenting, education services, and others.

MMCTV: Angelike introduced herself and said they have been around since 1997. She said they have produced 288 local programs and 370 hours over the year. She said that in Richmond 70 meetings were Richmond, and that number will increase. She said that cable funding is unstable and diminishing so they are turning to the towns. Bard said that he appreciates the viewership statistics. David said that he is sometimes recognized by strangers from the videos.

Richmond Community Band: Mike from RCB presented their request. He said that dues are not required, money collected goes to the band for supplies and music. He said that many towns do not have bands, and even the ones that do, have representation in RCB.

Richmond Rescue: Mike presented the Richmond Rescue statistics and request. He said that in addition to rescue services they also provide educational programs and safety services. He explained that 7 people have been saved by Richmond's AEDs. He explained that this year's request is 2% increase over last year and that is to account for inflation and cost of living increases.

STEPS: Dawn explained that she is asking for funding to help with their hotline service. She said it is usually the first form of contact, and initiates the rest of their services to those who reach out. She said that last year 14 Richmond residents were served. She said that 1 in 4 and 1 in 7 men are victims of intimate partner violence. Bard asked about the number of calls. Dawn said they received about 3600 calls from about 1600 people and they usually get two new callers per day. They are requesting \$0.25 per resident in Chittenden County.

UVM Home Health and Hospice: Ayesha Raftery introduced herself and explained they were formerly the VNA. She explained that they provide clinical services to two counties and they also provide family services. Last year they served 5,587 people. They served 119 Richmond residents. She said the request is level from last year.

Vermont Adult Learning: None

Vermont Family Network: None

VCIL: None

Jolina Court Zoning Amendment: Katie and Jess met and feel confident that with 80% lot coverage measured on the total lot they will not actually use 80% of what is available due to setbacks and wetland buffers.

Mary asked if parking would be allowed in floodplain. Jess said Selectboard is still considering this. Mary asked if it can be paved parking. Katie will follow up with state ecologist and Jess will also look into it.

Katie made the motion to set lot coverage at 80% of the total lot acreage. Bard seconded. After further discussion it was determined that motion was not necessary and all that was needed at this point was a general consensus as the Selectboard will need to vote on the whole document once it is completed. Katie withdrew the motion. The consensus was to keep lot coverage as it is currently stated in the amendment.

Katie is meeting on Oct. 30 with State ecologist to get his opinion on the health of the floodplain and get recommendations to use for the zoning amendment.

Jess noted that short term rentals will not be dealt with at this point as it needs more discussion. Zoning does not currently mention short term rentals so it is a more significant town wide discussion.

Katie stated that it is mentioned as a conditional use in the Village Downtown District

Jess agreed it is there but there is no definition so the cleaner way to address it is to remove it until it is defined.

Mary stated if it is zoned for the Village that she feels she should be able to do the same in her zone.

Jess agreed and stated that is why it is not being addressed until there is a further discussion. The concern is about units that are not owner occupied being used as short term rentals.

Roger stated that by not addressing it then it is by default allowed.

Mary noted it is a State of Vermont issue for tax collection and regulation of short term rentals and hotels. Town will still get the real estate taxes.

Bard said it is hard to choose a direction on this.

Roger stated his concern is that if a culture of short term rentals is established it will be hard to take it away.

John Rankin noted we could wait to see what other towns do and take guidance from that.

Katie stated that she sees a difference between owner occupied and non-owner occupied short term rentals.

Katie suggested we could mandate that the owner of the unit must live in Richmond.

Discussion moved on to the draft changes that Jess submitted regarding uses and definitions. Bard suggested a change to the definition regarding where residential shall be allowed in each building. Bard moved to accept the draft with the amendment related to the location of residential. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, motion passed.

Lighting and Crosswalks: A member of the public came to discuss her presence with the recent accident. She said that she supports more precautions. Bard said that he would request Pete to budget for it a pedestrian strobe for in front of the library. David asked to make sure that the signs are visible behind branches. Roger said that this ties into trying to increase utilization of parking down here. John Rankin asked which crosswalks, and they clarified that it would be only in front of the library for now. The board asked Josh to look into more lighting at the town center.

Letter from Planning Commission: The planning commission asked the selectboard to keep the planner at full time. Katie said she wants to make sure Jess is used effectively in a contractual basis. Josh said that he thinks that the knowledge-based questions should dwindle after a few weeks, but that some work she is uniquely qualified to do. Mary requested that the outreach to Jess could be consolidated through Josh.

Grandlist: Roger moved to adopt the changes as proposed. Katie seconded. All were in favor, so moved.

Richmond Rescue Statistics: Josh noted that they're available on the website

Mail: Josh handed out the mail from VLCT

Minutes:

10-7-19: Bard moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, so moved.

10-15-19: BArd moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Katie. All were in favor, so moved.

Warrants: Katie pre-reviewed the warrant. Purchase Order #3745, Bard moved to approve. Seconded by Roger. All were in favor, so moved. Purchase Order #3880 \$124,381.41, Bard moved to approve. Seconded by Roger. All were in favor, so moved.

Next Agenda: Discussion of Lighting and Crosswalks, Issues for the State Rep, Health Insurance, Appropriations, Progress on Planner position, Transportation Committee follow up, Bond Vote Information, Budget Goals and Paygrid, Jolina Court

Roger said he would like to thank Jessica for her work for the town.

Roger moved to adjourn. Seconded by Bard. All were in favor, adjourned at 10:00pm