

# Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2021

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members: Cathleen Gent (chair), James Floyd, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles

Absent: Chris Cole, Erik Filkorn, Mark Damico

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman

Cathleen Gent opened the meeting at 5:32 PM.

**Meeting Minutes:** March 4, 2021 minutes moved by Kart, seconded by Knowles. Minor changes were made, approved unanimously.

**Additions to Agenda:** Knowles requested to add an update on the Future of Rural Transit Steering Committee meeting. Gent also requested to add an item regarding the American Rescue Plan.

## UPWP Project Updates

**Bike Ped** – Venkataraman indicated the materials for the bike/ped public meeting will be ready early next week. He encouraged committee members to invite friends to the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Venkataraman also said that there is a legal access question regarding some of the potential trails that have been suggested by individuals via the wiki map and other ways of gathering information. He expects the consultants to offer a disclaimer during the public meeting that more information is needed before certain trails or paths are added to the plan. He asked if the Transportation Committee could work to resolve some of the legal questions being raised. The committee members discussed this and the general sense from Knowles and Floyd was that this type of activity was outside our general scope since the paths are not transportation links, but recreational. The better committee to take up the task may be the Trails Committee. Without knowing the number of parcels that may be affected, Gent said it is difficult to even assess the scope of the work to be done. After discussion, Venkataraman agreed that we could wait until the public session to determine how the legal access question pertains.

**Bridge Street** – The invitation for the April 8<sup>th</sup> public session at 7 PM is going out. Venkataraman urged committee members to invite friends and family.

**Google Docs Platform** – Gent, Kart, Damico and Venkataraman had occasion to use Google Docs for a letter the group wrote and edited regarding the Route 2 repaving project. Gent said there was one issue with providing Damico the letter. Floyd provided suggestions for sharing the documents.

**Route 2 Repaving Project** – Venkataraman said Eleni Churchill has assembled documents with town and CCRPC comments to VTrans. The committee briefly discussed elements of the VTrans plan and CCRPC comments documents. Venkataraman said the Selectboard will discuss the topic at next week's meeting. Gent noted that Green Mountain Engineering prepared a plan for East Main/Route 2 some years ago that specified parking locations and the sidewalk. Venkataraman said he will look for that document in town records.

**Grant Opportunity – 2021 AARP Community Challenge** - The committee discussed this grant and all agreed that we will be well poised to apply for this grant in a year from now, when plans are in place for a number of transportation projects.

Gent also said that the American Rescue Plan appears to have funding for public transit. This will be a future topic for the Transportation Committee.

**Other Old or New Business** – Future of Rural Transit Steering Committee – Knowles said he attended a meeting of that steering committee, which was also attended by Jeff Forward, who attended a recent Transportation Committee meeting. Knowles said St. Johnsbury is interested in applying and that it appeared MMUSD may be as well. There was discussion about the challenges that a service for both students and the public may create, including seat size, seat belts, children riding with adults, etc.

**Adjourn** - Motion to adjourn by Knowles, seconded by Damico. Approved unanimously. No abstentions.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent