

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members present: Cathleen Gent (chair), Chris Cole (vice-chair), Mark Damico, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner), Kelly Stoddard-Poor (AARP), Jason Charest (CCRPC), Gary Bressor.

A quorum was reached and the chair convened the meeting at 5:34 PM.

1. Revisions to Agenda: Gent asked to move the Gateway Zoning multi-use path idea to earlier in the agenda and to add the capital plan under old and new business.

2. Meeting Minutes: *February 22, 2022 minutes were moved by Damico, seconded by Knowles. Those minutes were approved unanimously. The February 28, 2022 minutes were moved by Damico, seconded by Knowles. Those minutes were approved unanimously.*

3. AARP Walkability Audit Tool

Stoddard-Poor made a presentation about the audit tool. Questions and answers followed. Stoddard-Poor said a key is to train auditors ahead of time and AARP can assist with that. It is helpful to have a wide range of different users and decision-makers as part of the audit process. Stoddard-Poor said that speed guns are available for use through AARP. In terms of auditing a street or road, it's best to keep the audit to a half-mile in each direction. Stoddard-Poor said that vehicle speed is a big factor in affecting pedestrian safety. She also said that there are benefits in doing all audits on a single day (with follow up audits) but it also works to space out the audits on different days. Knowles suggested areas in Richmond village for the audits to be done. Gent proposed further discussion during the next Transportation Committee meeting to develop a plan for moving forward.

4. UPWP FY22 Project Updates

The sidewalks scoping was discussed. Charest and Venkataraman reviewed the proposed alternatives along Huntington Road to the Johnnie Brook trail. Knowles offered a suggestion to narrow the path near the farmhouse. Venkataraman has discussed the potential path with Ashley Farr, and the upcoming public meeting about alternatives. Committee members discussed options including moving the house or placing the path in the fields below the house, which may be under local and state floodplain regulations. All agreed that the committee does not have a preferred alternative. Venkataraman discussed the outreach that is taking place for the March 17th meeting. He will send the flier to committee members.

5. Gateway Zoning: Multi-Use Path Idea

Bressor shared his conceptual plans for the placement of a multi-use path from the cemetery to the property near the Crate Escape. Bressor has presented these ideas to the Planning Commission for consideration as part of discussions about zoning changes to the Gateway district. Because the topic is under the purview of the Transportation Committee, Bressor is bringing it forward now. Gent pointed out that, contingent on funding, the Transportation Committee will be re-examining path alternatives between the village and the Exit 11 park and ride, and beyond. That work will begin this summer, assuming funding is in hand.

6. Bridge Street and Railroad Street project – Venkataraman had no updates to share.

7. Route 2 Repaving Project Update – Venkataraman said the Selectboard discussed the Route 2 bridge project near the fire station. VTrans is working on replacing the bridge going over I89 which requires a realignment. VTrans is seeking the use of town property for project staging and the realignment and has presented a just compensation proposal to the town. The Selectboard is interested in getting assurance from VTrans about Richmond's interests being met for the East Main Street portion of the Route 2 repaving project. Town Manager

Josh Arneson is preparing a letter from the Selectboard about the bridge replacement and Route 2 repaving. Knowles asked whether sidewalks will be installed on the bridge. Cole and Venkataraman explained that VTrans would not add sidewalks unless sidewalks were already in place or engineering plans were prepared, neither of which are in place in this instance. Damico noted it may be difficult to site a temporary bridge for construction and Cole offered ideas of how VTrans may approach that.

8. Committee Planning Session

The Committee discussed two draft purpose statements prepared by Kart and Cole. The final versions were approved by consensus. Either may be used, depending on the context.

Short version: The Richmond Transportation Committee works to make all modes of travel within our town easier, safer, more efficient and more enjoyable for everyone. The RTC's specialty is developing projects that attract outside funding.

Longer Version: The Richmond Transportation Committee works to make all modes of travel within our town easier, safer more efficient and more enjoyable for everyone. The Committee is guided by the town plan and implements transportation projects for the benefit of the Richmond community. The committee, established in 2019, has a short, but successful track record of securing outside funding for plan development.

During the next meeting, the Transportation Committee will discuss project priorities and implementation along with a timeline.

9. Old and New Business

Capital Plan – Venkataraman said that the Selectboard did not make any changes to the capital plan and voted to hold a public hearing on April 4th to take public comment. There was a brief discussion about elements of the plan pertaining to the committee's focus.

10. Adjourn – At 7:08 PM, motion to adjourn by Knowles seconded by Damico. Approved unanimously.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent