

DATE: March 4, 2022  
FROM: Cathleen Gent  
TO: Richmond Transportation Committee  
RE: Packet for March 8 Meeting

As a reminder, our regular meeting takes place next Tuesday at 5:30 PM. This is a zoom-only meeting. Materials that were distributed in previous packets are noted and are NOT included in this packet. If you need copies of any of these, please let Ravi or me know.

1. Meeting Agenda – March 8 - *Attached*
2. Minutes from February 22 and February 28 Meetings – *Both are attached*
3. AARP Walkability Audit Tool - *AARP Walkability Audit Tool and Worksheets were distributed in meeting packet for February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting*  
Kelly Stoddard-Poor from AARP will join us to offer tips for using the Walkability Audit Tool. Please bring any questions you have.
4. UPWP FY22 Project Updates - Ravi will provide updates for both projects.
  - Sidewalk Scoping – *Attachments were distributed by Ravi ahead of the February 22 meeting.*  
The focus of our discussion will be the Huntington Road sidewalk scoping and the alternatives public presentation, scheduled for March 17.  
Jason Charest from CCRPC is planning to attend.
  - Phase 2: Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – South End – *No attachments*  
Ravi will provide any updates.
5. Bridge Street & Railroad Street Update – *No attachments*  
Ravi will provide any updates.
6. Route 2 Repaving Update – *No Attachments.*  
*Please note that a letter to VTrans from Richmond was provided in Feb. 22 packet.*  
Ravi will provide any updates. On a related topic, Ravi indicates the Selectboard will discuss during the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting an easement request from VTrans for construction of the bridge on Rt. 2 near the Richmond Fire Department. He will update the committee about that as well as any other discussion about the Route 2 re-paving project.
7. Committee Planning Session: Committee Priorities – *No attachments* – Jon and Chris have drafted two versions of the purpose statement.  
**Short version:** The Richmond Transportation Committee works to make 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 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.

I have created a new project management sheet in Google docs, called ***RTC Project Tracking***. If you have time, please look at that sheet. Hopefully we will have time to discuss projects.

8. Grant Opportunities – None at this time.

9. Old and New Business

1. Gateway Zoning – Multi-Use Path Idea – *Attachment: Gary Bressor Proposal for multi-use path*. Gary Bressor has been working with the Planning Commission on some ideas for new zoning in the Gateway area (west of Richmond village). Gary's focus is on the area west of the cemetery. He has introduced an idea for a 10' wide path in that area. We will have a brief discussion about the idea for the path. While the RTC will be looking at the entire western corridor for a path/trail in the coming months (assuming UPWP FY23 funding comes through), Gary's idea is being discussed by the Planning Commission and others who participated in the Planning Commission public sessions about the Gateway.

Gary is planning to attend the RTC meeting. With committee agreement, I would like to move this item up in the agenda after item #5 above.

*[Not listed on the agenda. Will discuss if there is time]*

2. Capital Plan – The Selectboard recently discussed the Capital Plan and will continue that topic during their March 7 meeting. Ravi will provide an update.

10. Adjourn

Richmond Transportation Committee  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 @ 5:30 PM  
Online via Zoom

PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with Act 78, this meeting will be held online and conference call via Zoom only. You do not need a computer to attend this meeting. You may use the "Join By Phone" number to call from a cell phone or landline. When prompted, enter the meeting information provided below to join by phone.

For additional information about this meeting, please contact Ravi Venkataraman at 802-434-2430 or at [rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov](mailto:rvenkataraman@richmondvt.gov).

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86366345196?pwd=a3c3UUUVIVWFLN29IR2Naa0Ry-dktZdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 863 6634 5196

**Passcode:** 294023

**Join by Phone:** 929 205 6099

## AGENDA

1. Revisions to Agenda
2. Approve Minutes from February 22 and February 28 meetings
3. AARP Walkability Audit Tool
4. UPWP FY22 Project Updates
  - Sidewalks Scoping
  - Phase 2: Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – South End
5. Bridge Street & Railroad Street Update
6. Route 2 Repaving Project Update
7. Committee Planning Session: Committee Priorities
8. Grant Opportunities
9. Old and New Business
  - Gateway Zoning – multi-use path idea
10. Adjourn

# Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

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

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner), Erik Alling (Stantec), Jason Charest (CCRPC), Sai Sarepalli (CCRPC).

Not present: Jon Kart

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

**1. Revisions to Agenda:** Gent added two items to the end of the agenda, time permitting: Committee member reappointment process and Capital Plan.

**2. Meeting Minutes:** *February 8, 2022 minutes were moved by Cole, seconded by Damico. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

### 3. Committee Planning Session

In light of Kart not being present and guests prepared to discuss the UPWP FY22 sidewalk scoping, Gent postponed this topic.

### 4. UPWP FY22 Project Updates

**a. Sidewalks Scoping** – The consultant team introduced themselves. Alling said the project team is looking to get feedback from the committee prior to the alternatives' presentation meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Alling presented two alternatives for the Jericho Road sidewalk between the schools (School Street) and Valley View Road. The first alternative provides a 5' sidewalk on the west side of Jericho with a 30" tall box beam. The width of the road would not change, with a 9' travel lane and 3' shoulder. The project team is concerned about placing a marked crosswalk where the sidewalk ends across from Valley View Road. Alling said there could be enhancements to caution vehicular traffic about the crossing, such as signs. The second alternative would include a 5' grass strip and no guardrail. One challenge is that the alternative may be steep. The consultant team will have more data shortly to estimate the needed slope and impact. In response to a question from Damico, Alling said there may be a retaining wall. As with the first, there would be no crosswalk designation at Valley View Road. Knowles asked about snow removal and maintenance for both alternatives. Committee members offered suggestions for different ways to reduce vehicular speeds at Valley View Road and Alling said a passive means to calm traffic would be examined. The discussion turned to the crossing at School Street and whether two lanes are needed to exit from School Street onto Jericho Road and a potential sidewalk on the north side of School Street.

Alling then showed alternatives for the east side of Bridge Street between Jolina Court and Esplanade. He pointed out that the VHB study from last year is incorporated into the current project for the area between Main Street and Jolina Court. The two alternatives are both at-grade sidewalks, with either a 5' green strip or variable green strip widths. Committee members provided comments and questions, in particular about the sidewalk re-building project on the west side of Bridge Street that the highway department will undertake this year. Questions about possible storm water issues on the east side of the street were raised, and committee members expressed support for raised sidewalks on the east side, at least between Jolina Court and the Town Center. Alling said a raised sidewalk option with or without stormwater features would need to be identified very soon. Venkataraman said that, because the public alternatives' meeting has been announced, it cannot be changed from March 17. It was agreed by all in attendance that a special Transportation Committee meeting should be held ASAP with Peter Gosselin and the project consultant team in attendance.

Alling then discussed the at-grade alternatives on Huntington Road between the Farr Complex and the entrance to the Johnnie Brook Trail. Both alternatives show a bituminous (blacktop) at grade path along the road. One

alternative has box beam and one has a 5' green strip. For that alternative, the sidewalk would be closer to the house. There was discussion about maintenance and winter use. Gent noted that there has been some past discussion about the path location to the north of the house in the floodplain. Alling said it is unknown what the flood regulations' restrictions are, etc.

b. Phase 2: Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – South End – Knowles and Venkataraman provided a brief update from the local concerns meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Gent noted that the steering committee meeting will take place in mid-March.

**5. Route 2 Repaving Project Update** – Coles and committee members said they thought the Selectboard letter was excellent. Venkataraman said there will be an in-house staff meeting to discuss integrating the East Main sidewalk and stormwater work with the Route 2 paving. He had no other updates.

**6. Speed Study Report** – The committee discussed the speed study report from CCRPC for Huntington, Kenyon and Hinesburg roads. Venkataraman said the report will be provided to the Selectboard, and asked if the Transportation Committee had any comment. Cole noted that speed studies are based on engineering standards for certain speeds and that the CCRPC recommendations for slower speeds in certain areas for Huntington and Hinesburg roads are likely based on the crash data. The roads are built for vehicles and that a fog line is needed on the roads. The general sentiment from the committee was that we understand the speed study is to offer recommendations to make the roads safe for vehicles, which we support, but we will also continue to bring projects forward for transportation infrastructure that include features to serve others like pedestrians, bicycles, and vulnerable users.

**7. AARP Walkability Tool Audit** – Gent confirmed that Kelly Stoddard-Poor will attend the next committee meeting to introduce the tool and provide tips for implementing it. Committee members agreed the tool looks very user friendly. Gent listed some possible questions for Stoddard-Poor.

## **8. Grant Opportunities**

a. Building a Better America grant opportunities – Venkataraman said he has reached out to CCRPC and that Eleni Churchill suggests that, because there is no specific guidance from US DOT for the grants, we should revisit this in late spring. The committee will discuss this again at a future meeting.

b. Better Places Grant – Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development – Venkataraman attended an information session about this grant. He said it appears the grant can be used for some action related to public places and would apply to Richmond's Village Center area. This year, applicants must contact ACCD staff and get approval to submit an application. One challenge is a requirement of crowd-funded/local match. Venkataraman said it is a rolling grant application.

**9. Old and New Business** – None taken up.

The Committee members recommended that the special Transportation Committee meeting for further discussion about the special Bridge Street sidewalks be scheduled for Monday, February 28 at 4 PM. Venkataraman will reach out to Peter Gosselin and consultant team members.

**10. Adjourn** – At 7:05 PM, motion to adjourn by Cole, seconded by Knowles. Approved unanimously.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent

# Richmond Transportation Committee Special Meeting

Minutes – February 28, 2022

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

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

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner), Peter Gosselin (Highway Foreman) Erik Alling (Stantec)

Not present: Chris Cole (vice-chair)

A quorum was reached and the chair convened the meeting at 4:03 PM.

**1. Revisions to Agenda:** There were no revisions to the agenda

## **2. UPWP FY22 Project Updates - Sidewalks Scoping - Review consultant preliminary designs**

Gosselin described the plans for this year for repaving the west side of Bridge Street from Depot Street, with new concrete curbing, a short green belt, and five-foot sidewalks. He said he has had conversations with Dan Noyes about the sidewalk in front of the Richmond Market and crossing Railroad Street. Gosselin also discussed plans for the east side of Bridge Street. The Highway Department plans to place concrete curbing for the length of the east side of Bridge Street, in advance of any plans for sidewalks, as well as new storm drains in front of the library and the town center. There is a low spot near the handicap parking spaces across from the church. Gosselin is considering a new catch basin in Volunteers Green at the low point to further purify water before it goes into the Winooski River.

Knowles suggested it may be best to end the east side sidewalk just north of the Giffords driveway across from the north side of Esplanade Street. Gosselin said either location – north or south of that driveway -- works, but ending it at the north side makes good sense. Kart said that there is poor lighting across from the library, where a pedestrian was killed. Gosselin said that the installed illuminated cross walk has mitigated that lighting problem. Highway is looking at adding a street light at Church Street and Bridge Street.

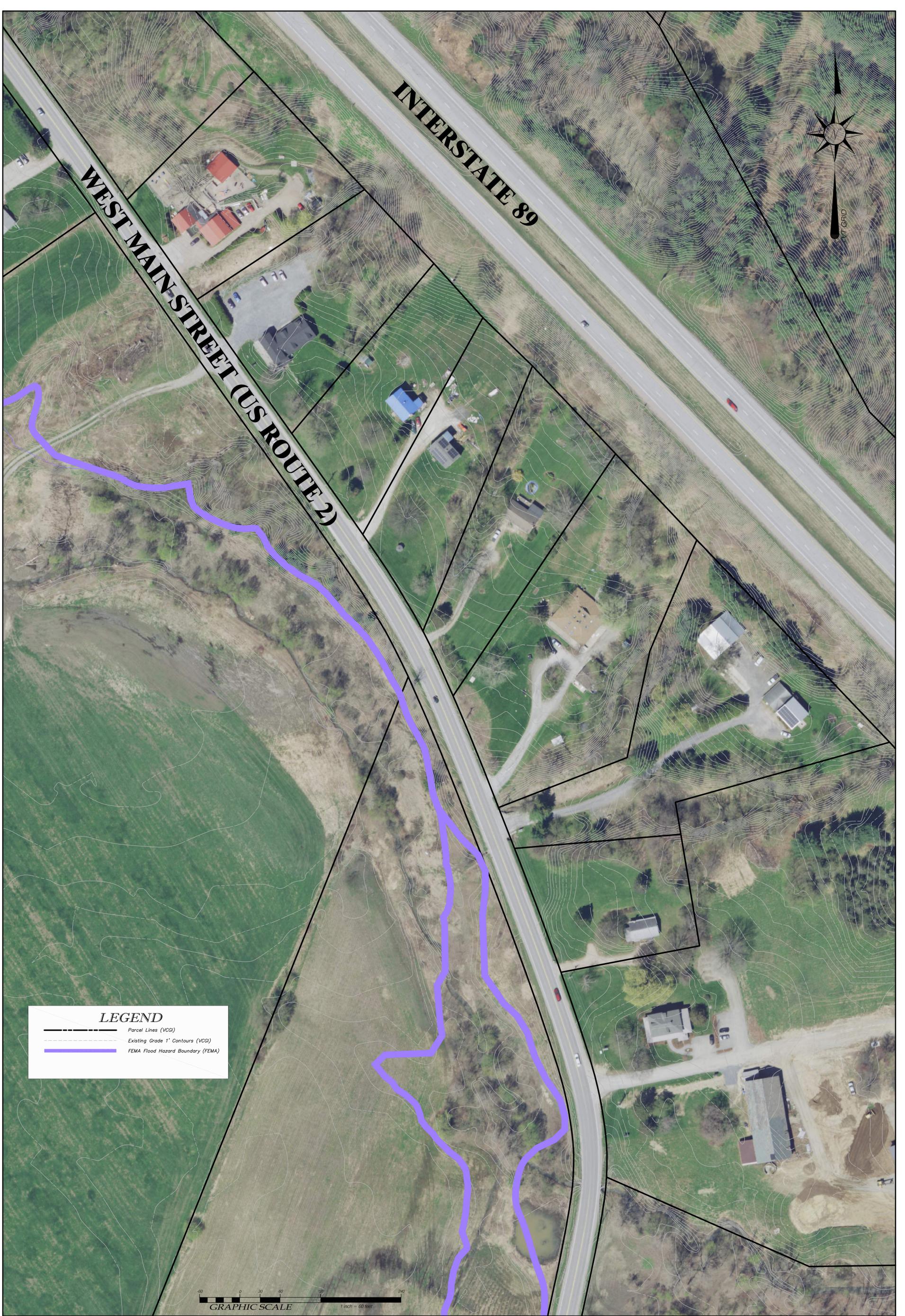
Alling asked clarifying questions about the stormwater collection and the curbing on the east side of Bridge Street. Gosselin indicated that the curbing will be at the existing location of the deteriorated curb on the east side. There may be a need to move the road slightly to be sure one particular street pole will line up in the green strip on the west side. He also clarified that the west side grass strips will be approximately 2 feet in width.

The topic then turned to the Railroad Street area. Alling shared the final design from the VHB study for the Railroad Street intersection. Gent noted that the VHB study provides a consultant-determined alternative, based on public input, for that area. Gosselin recapped ideas recently discussed with Dan Noyes about the sidewalk and the Railroad Street intersection. Noyes has suggested certain features, such as placing the sidewalk near to the Richmond Market building, and his interest in retaining a sufficient radius for trucks turning onto Railroad Street. Gosselin made the point that Noyes owns Railroad Street, except for the ROW owned by the town along Bridge Street. Alling left at this time. Damico said that the design standards in the VHB study allow for that turning radius and that a mountable curb is workable. Kart said he believes Noyes' goals and the public good for pedestrian and bicycle safety can both be met. There was a brief discussion about sidewalks continuing along Railroad Street to the planned new location for the market. Damico said that sidewalks will help ensure the success of the new business and the safety of residents. Gosselin has a copy of the VHB study and will continue discussions with Noyes. He will then communicate with Venkataraman.

Gosselin provided brief comments about the Stantec sidewalk alternatives for Jericho Road and for Huntington Road. He already submitted written comments to Venkataraman about the Jericho Road project.

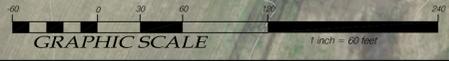
**3. Adjourn** – At 5:08 PM, Gent adjourned the meeting.

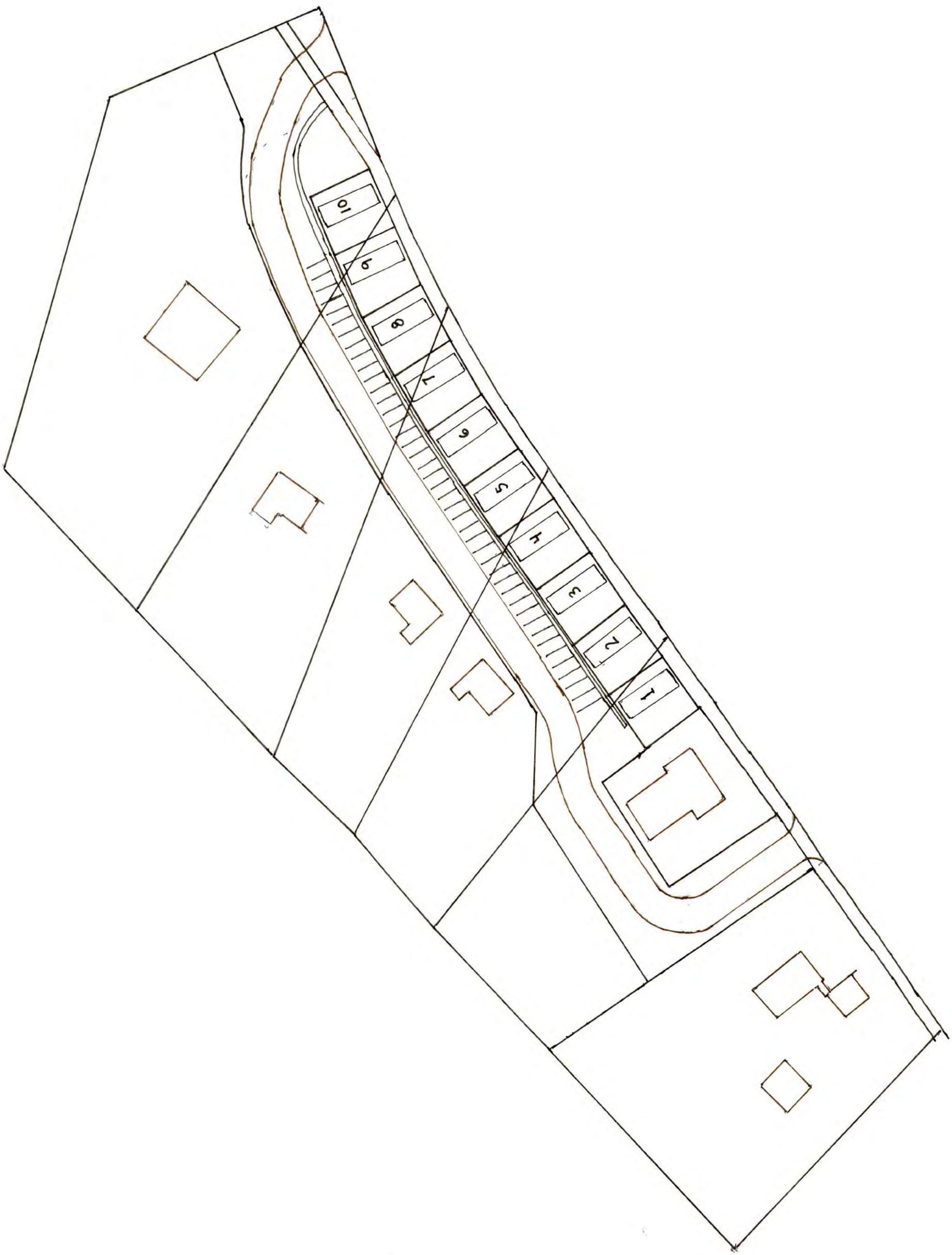
-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent



**LEGEND**

- Parcel Lines (VCG)
- Existing Grade 1' Contours (VCG)
- FEMA Flood Hazard Boundary (FEMA)





Cemetery

# EXISTING Profile

US ROUTE 2

Westbound

Eastbound

How to build a bike path along the cemetery;

I

Cemetery



Fence

10' Path

US ROUTE 2

Westbound

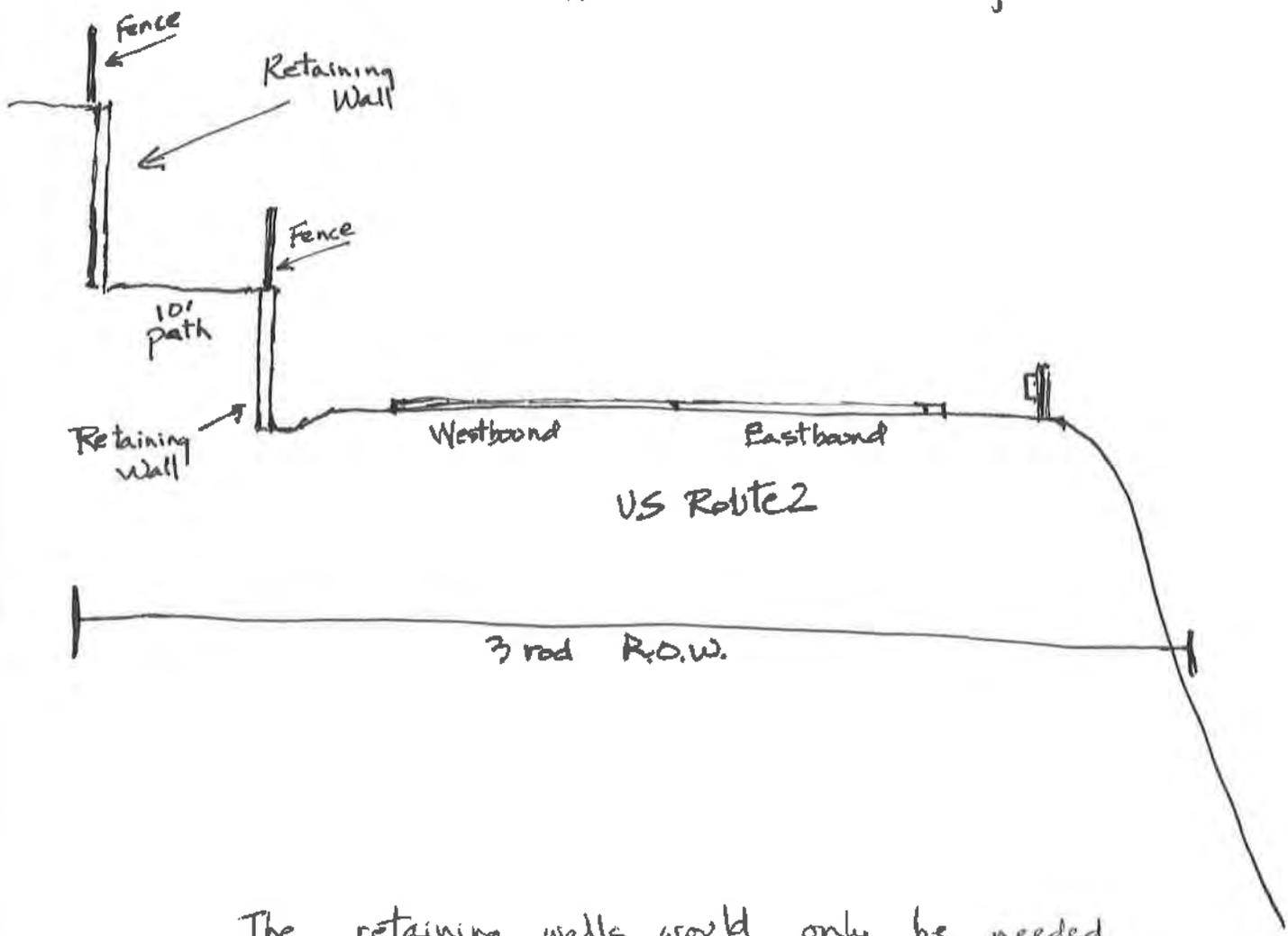
Eastbound

# Proposed Profile

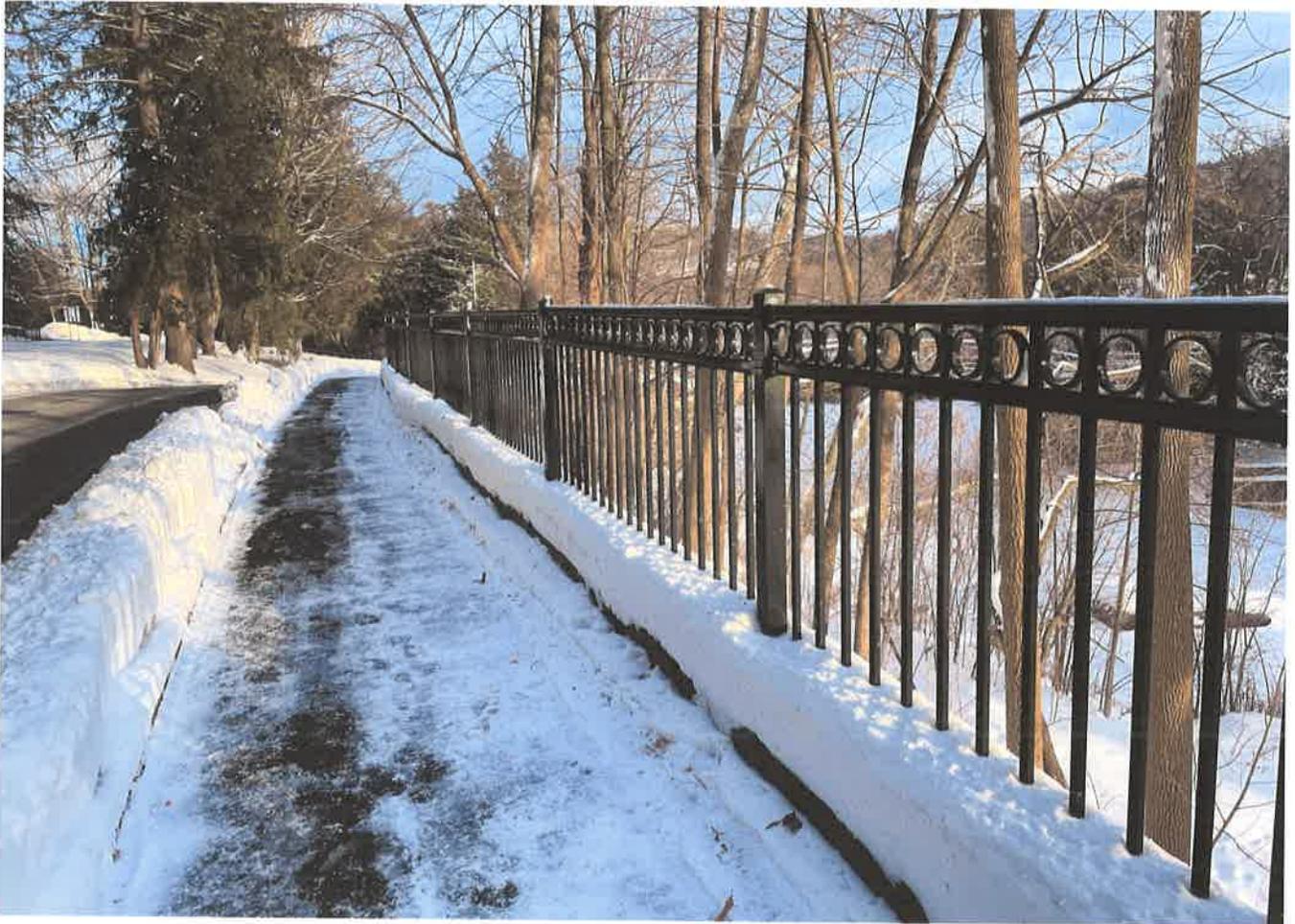
Requires moving the Right-of-Way and the Road

## II

Proposed Profile Along the Cemetery  
where Route 2 would not  
have to be realigned

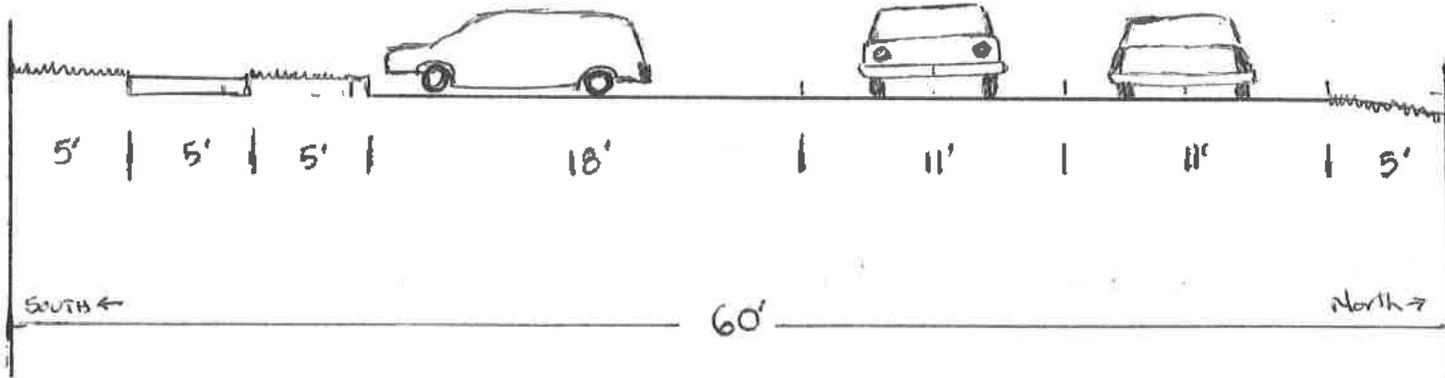


The retaining walls would only be needed along about 2/3 of the cemetery property. This would be significantly less than moving route 2 away from the cemetery and would not require getting permission from the Railroad.



Example of 4 1/2' high fence that could be used along the cemetery.

Woodstock



Proposed Road Profile in 60' RIGHT OF WAY  
in the section of the 10 single  
family homes