

Richmond Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2020

All participants attended the meeting remotely.

Committee members: Cathleen Gent (co-chair), Chris Cole (co-chair), Jon Kart, Erik Filkorn

Others participating: Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman, Selectboard member Roger Brown

Cathleen Gent opened the meeting at 5:34 PM.

Meeting Minutes: September 3, 2020 – Motion by Erik Filkorn, seconded by Chris Cole, to approve the minutes. No changes were offered. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vtrans Bike/Ped Grant

Roger Brown said he is seeking support and possible assistance from the Transportation Committee to apply to the VTrans Bike/Ped Grant Program specifically for construction funds to build a sidewalk between School Street to Southview Road. He noted that the sidewalk between School Street and Southview Road was included in the Safe Routes to School Study in 2005. Chris Cole reviewed the types of grants (feasibility/scoping, initial design with construction estimate, construction) and suggested that a feasibility study would be an appropriate grant application for the VTrans Bike/Ped Grant program, since the costs in current dollars are needed for any construction grant. He encouraged the Selectboard/town to develop a Transportation Capital Budget so that town funds for matching state or federal grants will be in place for construction of sidewalks and other projects. All committee members agreed with the goal of a capital budget for transportation. Roger Brown stated that he would like to begin the sidewalk construction more quickly than the town can prepare a transportation capital budget and that public support would be improved if there are actual projects. Committee members discussed challenges with previous efforts at getting the Vtrans Bike/Ped grant funding. Erik Filkorn and Jon Kart questioned whether there is sufficient time for submitting a quality Vtrans Bike/Ped Grant application, within the two week application deadline, and that staff have a very full workload. All members of the committee said they would do what they can to support Ravi Venkataraman get an application completed if the Selectboard decides to proceed with the submission. Roger Brown left the meeting at this time.

Review of Selectboard September 8 Meeting

Jon Kart and Ravi Venkataraman provided highlights of the Selectboard meeting during which the transportation topics/issues from the last year were discussed. Individual Selectboard members expressed interest for a number of different projects. Jon indicated that the Selectboard discussed the Route 2 repaving project as a priority and will convene a meeting with CCRPC and VTrans to move that project forward. Chris Cole will meet with Selectboard member Bard Hill about the Route 2 repaving project.

UPWP Grants

Ravi Venkataraman said there were no updates related to the scopes of work. Jon Kart has edited the draft public invitation prepared by Chris Cole. Erik Filkorn will review that invitation next, followed by Cathleen Gent. Ravi Venkataraman will then get the public invitation posted. The committee discussed the purpose of the two project steering committees, which is to get community input, do vetting of ideas, and be sure the projects encompass all the elements. Cathleen Gent said it is critical that the steering committee guidance not bog down the projects, which are both on tight timeframes. Jon Kart will share his list of contacts/committees for the steering committee.

Transportation Committee Web Page

The town web page has been updated to include a transportation committee page where minutes, agendas, and supporting documents can be posted.

No other old or new business was taken up.

At 6:50 PM, Jon Kart offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Erik Filkorn. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent