

Town of Richmond Housing Committee Notes

Date: **February 11, 2021**

Time Started: **7:33**

Time Ended: **8:39**

Ravi Venkataraman (Host)

Present: **Virginia Clarke, Carole Furr, Mark Hall, Sarah Heim** (Chair), **Miranda Lescaze, Zachary Maia, Andrew Mannix, , Connie van Eeghen**

Guest:

Absent: Jackie Pichette

Quorum is 5; 5 votes to pass any motion

Recorded by MMCTV

1. Welcome
2. Adjustments to Agenda - none
3. Approval of the Minutes of January 14, 2021: Carole Furr moved and Sarah Heim seconded approval of the minutes. Unanimously approved.
4. Housing Needs Assessment update
 1. Mark: Used this assessment to present data, not to present recommendations for action. Next step: use to inform as a starting point for consultant
 2. Andrew looked for a way to represent permitting information; limited to the historical decline since the 60s and 70s
 3. Miranda: this concludes what the committee can to prepare a report for the consultant
 4. Ravi will review again for any missing information; from his perspective, it looks complete. The working group agreed that they found the data needed up to 2018, other than impact of covid on the Richmond housing environment. There may be more commuting data that can be pulled; Ravi will ask around for more.
 5. Thanks to Andrew, Mark, Miranda, Zach for their work since October 2020.
 6. Community housing survey: Ravi will follow up with Regina Mahony at CCRPC about the survey and the needs assessment; consider adding a question to the survey about commuting distances/vehicle miles traveled
5. Municipal Planning Grant update
 1. Ravi received more feedback from Josh Arneson about the RFP; it has changed in terms of deliverables: a fuller proposal than we discussed before.
 2. Bids will be sealed and opened in public. Scheduled for Thursday, Feb 25. None received yet. Proposals will be shared with Sarah, Mark, and Zach to make a selection. Regular meetings with the consultant and the committee. To start in April 2021. Many thanks to Ravi for putting the proposal together.
 3. CCRPC will participate as well, although the lead on this has not been determined.
6. Overview of ACCD/AARP's "Enabling Better Places" workshop
 1. Sarah, Zach, and Virginia attended. Zach's group discussed affordable housing broadly, with the help of the Bennington planner discussing zoning. Breakout groups were somewhat scattered in conversations.
 2. Virginia shared the degree to which zoning activities are highly specified, dependent on the goals of the community such as multi-family dwelling. Opinions in Richmond about such goals (like multi-family dwellings) are varied; the Planning Committee is currently working on outreach with village residents to welcome as many voices to reflect their goals and needs.
 3. Virginia explained some of the details of planning and zoning processes. Once a community understands its goals, it needs to also understand how to make the permitting process easier, to allow it to happen. How, for example, do we increase housing but not lose the Vermont village feel of the town. Some VT towns have used recommendations from Enabling Better Places booklet to make these kinds of improvements. To some degree, these are a product of the natural environment/context (e.g. Williston, Winooski, Hinesburg). Richmond's particular constraints are the four-corner intersection to access downtown and the lack of

parking. Current changes are planned in manageable chunks, to develop the town and increase density over time, in targeted locations.

7. Other Business, Correspondence, and Adjournment

1. Committee meeting schedule will change; we will transition to 4th Mondays of the month
 1. Next meeting will be March 22, to be confirmed by Ravi
2. Proposed agenda:
 1. Municipal planning grant – subgroup will help Ravi
 2. Housing needs assessment feedback
 3. Overview of zoning strategies – Virginia; review Land Use Planning in VT recording ahead
3. Ravi will advertise for another committee member
4. Adjournment: motion made by Miranda Lescaze
 1. Seconded by Connie van Eeghen
 2. Unanimously approved

Recorded by Connie van Eeghen