

Town of Richmond
Parking Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday March 15, 2021 6:00 PM

Due to restrictions in place for COVID-19, and in accordance Bill H.681 this meeting will be held by login online and conference call only.

Members (all present):

Cara LaBounty
Diane Mariano
JC (John) Cohn
Lou Borie
John Rankin

Others Present: none

6:02 PM Welcome and Public Comment (recording started) - none

6:02 PM 1. Review & Approve Minutes –2/22/2021

Lou moved to Review and Approve the minutes. John R 2nd the motion. All approved with aye. JC not present.

6:04 PM 2. Updates

Richmond Land Trust (RLT) 6:04-6:20 PM

As stated in the last meeting minutes, three short term parking questions were asked at the 2/8 PAC meeting of the RLT. These questions were also included in an email to Gary Bressor on 2/16.

1. Is it possible, once again, to gain a temporary parking arrangement for the Bombardier field, similar to what was done last summer?
2. Is it possible to extend the Beeken Rivershore Canoe Access parking area, beyond the boundaries that are now there?
3. Do you all see any possible additional parking options as Dugway road gets repaired near the gorge this summer?

Gary sent Diane an email on 3/7 stating that the next RLT full board meeting is on Thursday 4/1 and he will bring those questions up then. The full RLT board did not meet in March since they were meeting in individual committees.

Diane and Cara will send a reminder email to Gary to pursue answers from the RLT so we could give the Selectboard an update in April.

Diane and John hope to meet with Gary at the Canoe Access to better understand potential additional parking to alleviate Cochran road ROW parking.

Lou reminded us that there is a new farmer who is investing in the Bombardier Meadow to bring up the quality of hay that is there. And checking in with the Vermont Housing Conservation is quick process (2-3 days) and there would need a Richmond Zoning Permit (14 days) for the Bombardier Meadow if the RLT board went forward with opening the land to temporary parking.

Pete Gosselin, Richmond Highway Dept Foreman 6:09 PM

Cara will ask Pete for an estimate of putting gravel along the Bombardier Meadow Cochran Road in case the RLT could not provide parking in the field this summer. Also, an estimate of how many parking spots could be provided.

Jonesville Railroad ROW 6:20-6:30 PM

Site location: River side of Route 2, across from Jonesville Post Office, bordering motorcycle shop parking and corner of Cochran road RR crossing gate side

JC has made several attempts (email and phone) and has had no response from Jim Fountain, Canadian National Railroad (CNR) real-estate. JC did to talk with Dan Noyes, Richmond Home Supply, and got another contact. Dan said he reached an amicable solution with the railroad. Plus, JC got an additional contact from a message saying Jim is out of the office. JC will pursue all of these.

JC felt positive that some arrangement could be made for the town to lease the railroad ROW in Jonesville (across for the Jonesville post office). The difficulty lies in communication and finding the documentation.

Cara did a site visit and will come up with a car count. If it is cleaned out and the random metal stakes are removed it could be a positive gain for additional parking. Cara will also talk to the landowner who borders this area.

Cara will ask Pete about the adjacent side of intersection, the Bolton side on the railroad side. This is seasonal parking area where safety is an issue when entering route 2. And are there any safe parking options there?

Route 2 Jonesville Bullpen 6:30-6:48 PM

Site location: Opposite river side of route 2, it is a bump out space between the ledge area (on Stage side of intersection) and the grassy area east of the intersection.

Lou mentioned that Craig Keller is the VTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation) contact for the 1111 (spoken eleven eleven) Permit (State Highway Access and Work Permit) for the Bullpen area. And the 1111 Permit is a full proposal of the work at hand (filling, traffic flow, signage, etc) and it is town generated. This is the same process that happen down Route 2 at the Long Trail Bridge parking crossing area.

Lou brought up a map showing the Bullpen area.

Lou will continue to gather information from VTrans.

Cara will talk with Pete about the potential work on the Bullpen.

Johnny Brook State Land & River Access 6:48-7:03 PM

Site location: Grassy area bordered by Rt. 2, Kenyon Rd, and Johnny Brook Road

Last meeting Lou mentioned that Jeff Blanchard (VTRANS contact) did not think this area would work for parking.

Cara talked with Pete Gosslin about possible other parking in the ROW. He did not think parking along the ROW, near the cliffs, on Johnny Brook road would work due to line of sight and drainage issues.

Cara will ask Pete his opinion about the actual State land that is bordered by the 3 roads and another possible VTrans contact to inquire about creating a grassy parking area in that location.

Round Church 7:03

Continue to look into possible Round Church Visitor Parking painted roadbed.

Old Cochran Rd roadbed

Cara will ask Pete about the area off of Cochran Road where the old Cochran road left over road is as potential parking. This may give another option to bicyclists to move away from the Round Church parking.

Cochran's Sugarhouse temporary parking – no discussion

Robbin's Mountain Parking – no new updates

Duck Brook Trail (Long Trail auxiliary trail)

The Jonesville RR ROW and the Bullpen may help with trail parking, although it is a hike up to the trail head. John R mentioned that about 7 years ago a landowner complained about parking at the trailhead to the Selectboard and they had a no parking sign placed there. Discussion about the inconsistent approaches to parking at trailheads.

Village Volunteer's Green – no new updates

Other Jonesville options 7:05 PM

JC reached out to a Jonesville resident for possible parking, and they are in discussion.

Lou reached out to a resident near the Safford Preserve and they are not interested in providing temporary parking.

7:20 PM

3. Action Plan Template

Cara led discussion in coming up with a template to better document and communicate the work done. A draft is in One Note.

Agenda items for 3/29/2021 meeting

This meeting will be a work session to gather information for the April Selectboard meeting. These agenda items are sorted by location, starting in Jonesville then heading west to Richmond. They may come up in a different order for discussion.

Jonesville

Railroad ROW

Bullpen

Duck Brook Long Trail auxiliary trailhead

Bombardier Meadow RLT

Wes White Hill parking area

Other areas?

Richmond

Beeken Preserve Canoe Access RLT

Old Cochran Road road

Cochran Sugar House

Round Church

Johnny Brook State Land

Robbins Mountain Parking area

Other areas?

7:52 PM **Adjourn JC - motion to adjourn, John R 2nd, all aye**