

TO: Town of Richmond Selectboard
FROM: Cathleen Gent, Chair - Richmond Transportation Committee
DATE: September 21, 2021

RE: Public Hearing Comments RE: Williams Hill Class 4 Road

At the request of the Planning Commission, and in advance of the September 21 public hearing, the Richmond Transportation Committee took up consideration of a formal request that the Selectboard discontinue the 0.7 mile segment of Williams Hill Class 4 Road.

The Richmond Transportation Committee discussed the Williams Hill Class 4 Road during the meeting of August 10, 2021. Here is a section of those approved minutes which include a formal motion that the Committee supports the public interest in keeping the Class 4 Williams Hill Road and opposes its discontinuation.

Williams Hill – Class 4 Road: Venkataraman briefly reviewed the memo he prepared for the Planning Commission regarding this matter. Committee members reviewed the Town highway map (from VTrans) and discussed the options that the Selectboard will consider as a result of the request to discontinue the 0.7 mile class 4 portion of Williams Hill Road. There was general agreement that the public interest is best served by maintaining the class 4 road section and that the town plan specifically encourages trails as a means to connect neighborhoods and provide non-vehicular methods of travel. *Motion made by Knowles, seconded by Damico, to send a letter to the Planning Commission and Selectboard advising that the Richmond Transportation Committee supports the public interest in keeping the Class 4 Williams Hill Road and opposes discontinuance of the Class 4 section of Williams Hill Road. Voting: Unanimous in favor of the motion.* After the vote, there was discussion about whether to take additional action as to making the Class 4 road into a legal trail. There was some agreement that could be taken up when the UPWP project for Phase 2 of the Bike and Ped master plan is taken up this fall.

For the record, Cathleen Gent, Mark Damico, James Floyd, Jon Kart, and Allen Knowles were present at that meeting. Chris Cole (vice-chair) and Erik Filkorn were absent.

Thank you for receiving these comments from the Transportation Committee during the September 21st public hearing.