

Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2022

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Jeff Forward, June Heston

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Ariana Matthews-Salzman, Ben Feinson, Diane Mariano, Erin Wagg, Jim W, Jon Kart, Julie Waite, Kevin McAleer, Kirsten Bower, Lauck Parke, Lucie Whiteford, Marcia Gardner, Martha Nye, Mary Houle, Mike, Patty Brushett, Rod West, Tyler Stratton, Vicky Barnak

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by: Heston

Public Comment:

Houle: Last meeting, I cited that the Selectboard may vote to enter into Executive Session but must state the nature of the business. The Selectboard handbook also states that Selectboard must not interfere with duties granted to boards and entities, the Selectboard serves as ex-officio on Planning Commission. I bring up a possible incompatible position on the Selectboard as Jeff Forward is the Energy Coordinator and the Chair of the Town Center and Library Buildings Committee. Few people come to Planning/Zoning or Selectboard to propose affordable housing projects and also achieve the largest destruction of the same affordable housing in that target group. Four mobile home lots, one duplex and one single family home as well as a commercial garage site were removed from Village on Esplande. Half of the land mass is now a parking lot. The same person presents a request to Selectboard to get Zoning requirements waived in advance of any DRB hearings or Planning Commission meetings for the soon to be proposed projects. Tell me, isn't this the cart before the horse? When I was the Chair on the Planning Commission, this same person spoke of creating hamlets in the area of gravel pit on Kenyon Rd. It was also stated that running water and sewer along the Gateway would encourage unwanted development and would tarnish the look of the Town. Overall, the development of anything in the Gateway district would be as it is now, unchanged. But wait, what has changed? In previous Selectboard meetings concerning the Zoning of Buttermilk properties, it was stated that one property could not cantilever onto an adjacent property, as described in the Zoning document. This cantilever rule was not applied to the property of the house closest to the Bridge on the Round Church side. The entire roof of that house now pitches into the public roadway. I brought this up to the current Town Manager and Highway Foreman and was told any discharge of snow on that area would be addresses as a hazard to the traveling public. Nothing has been done. Also please be aware that a sidewalk is being proposed for the Town Center side of Bridge St. We already have a sidewalk between the two busiest buildings (Town Center and Library), we have two crosswalk designations to this one sidewalk that serves the Town. I do not see the need for a sidewalk from the Bridge to the Railroad. What need does this meet? It doesn't make sense.

Heston: Josh, can you follow up on which Committees Selectboard members are allowed to serve?

Arneson: Yes.

Forward: I am the Town Energy Coordinator but am not part of the Conservation Commission.

Gardner: I know the discussion on speed limits will take place later, but I cannot stay. I would like to give comments now. I live on Hinesburg Rd. My husband and I walk on the road frequently. Even though the speed limit is 45 mph but many drive at 55 mph or higher. We also attest to the number of accidents, no fewer than 8 when a vehicle has gone off the road or hit something. There are many examples of accidents within a quarter mile stretch of road. In the interest of safety for those who walk, bike or drive the road, please reduce the speed limit to 35 mph so it is consistent with the Town of Hinesburg.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Consideration of submitting a permit to VTrans for use of Right of Way by the Green Bridge on Rt. 2 for recreational parking

Heston: The Parking Advisory Committee is recommending we again apply for a two-year permit for use of parking lot in 2022 and 2023. VTrans would approve a 2-year permit and the application is in your packet.

Furr: Sounds like a good idea.

McAleer: I am the Chair of the Parking Advisory Committee. We started that parking area late in the season, but it was used really well. The topsoil held up really well and VTrans had no concern about extending the permit. We hope to manage traffic a little bit more this year and attract more usage. This is the Checkered House Bridge not the Bullpen on the Rt. 2 side of Jonesville. The Bullpen is still up for discussion. The Bombardier Meadow parking seems to be working and we plan to use it through the next season. We have some concerns about continuing to use and had VTrans come take a look at it. We would need to add grading, crosswalks, and signs.

Furr moved to approve applying to VTrans for a permit to use the Route 2 Right of Way near the Green Bridge for recreational parking and to appoint Town Manager Josh Arneson as the duly authorized agent to sign the permit application. Hill seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Consideration of changing the name of the Parking Advisory Committee to the Recreational Parking Advisory Committee and update on next project for the Committee

McAleer: The rationale is to clarify the responsibility of the committee. We do not want to be confused with other parking areas. We want to focus on recreational parking and remove any misconceptions of our responsibilities.

Heston: So really the name change is to align with what the committee is actually doing.

Hill: Is there an overlap between types of parking? What type of parking is the Volunteers Green? I am fine with the name change but we might need to figure out the scope of what type of parking we are dealing with in certain areas.

McAleer: Volunteers Green does not fit into a neat box. We are looking at seasonal recreational parking areas. There was some confusing in the past about what we were doing. I was originally wondering if we were looking at the parking on Main Street. I don't want to belabor the point too much.

Forward: What do you think about calling it the Seasonal Recreational Parking Advisory Committee?

McAleer: I can take that proposed name change back to the members of the Committee.

Forward: So, should we table this discussion for now?

Cohn/Mariano: What was the proposal?

Heston: The proposal is to rename the Parking Advisory Committee to Recreational Parking Advisory Committee.

Forward: Or, the Seasonal Recreational Parking Advisory Committee

Heston: We will table it and let Kevin take it back and see that the Committee thinks.

McAleer: Dugway Road is a recreational parking challenge for the Town. We are still in the fact-finding stage to understand the problem. We felt we should engage more with site walks, conversations with Pete and Kyle, we looked at usage data from Richmond Land Trust. We feel it would be appropriate to engage with the residents of Dugway Rd. We want to send them a letter with potentially a survey and invite them to a meeting, so we understand what they are experiencing. We will coordinate with Josh about the contents of the letter. Once we were comfortable with our assessment of the current residents then we would reach out to the larger community. We want to temper expectations as it is unique road that is heavily utilized on summer weekends. The parking constraints are very real. We want to hear those residents and try to address a solution. We need to have realistic sets of expectations with much more time. It isn't like Overrocker Park, it will take much more time. Even small upgrades like signage and grading won't make that much of an impact. This is a multi-year process. Regardless of a solution we want to consolidate our findings. We want to create a document that will be a resource for future conversations and problem-solving opportunities.

Hill: At a future date, we could hear a quick overview of different seasonal parking locations. What is the current Summer seasonal parking plan?

Forward: Thank you for all the work as this is a perennial issue and you have made tremendous progress.

McAleer: We would like to request a resident on Dugway Rd to join our Committee.

Houle: If you are sending out a letter, please include all residents on Phoenix Circle and Orchard Lane, including tenants.

Consideration of approving the Town to act as the fiscal sponsor for the Richmond Farmers Market grant application to the Vermont Community Foundation

Heston: You will see in your packet information from Arianna Matthews-Salzman.

Matthews-Salzman: I am requesting grant funding from the Vermont Community Foundation that we cannot apply to directly. Since the Farmers Market is not 501c3 we cannot apply solely. We are seeking fiscal sponsorship through the Town of Richmond. I propose a Pop-Up Community Kitchen at the Farmers Market where there would be cooking lessons in a 10ft by 10ft tent similar to other vendors. The space would provide free nutrition education, cooking lesson, and taste tastes. We would engage with farmers and buy from local vendors. We plan to serve everyone who comes to market. The budget is \$3000 for supplies at beginning of the season, pay farmers each week for produce, and to pay someone to staff the booth. Those payments would be weekly for 10 weeks. The Vermont Community Foundation would grant the Town the money. The Town could then give a lump sum where we would track receipts, accounts, and grant reporting responsibilities. The Town wouldn't have to do much of anything other than pass the funds along.

Forward: I love this idea. I have two questions. Do you feel like you would be competing with other vendors if giving away food? This is very similar to the Richmond Community Kitchen, and have you spoken to them about this proposal?

Matthews-Salzman: We are giving away small amounts of food so it wouldn't be competing from other vendors. It would be small batch tactile learning about cooking and recipes. We hope it will inspire people to buy from our vendors. Plus, we will be buying some of the produce from them. We have not communicated with the Richmond Community Kitchen yet but would do so if we are awarded the grant. The name is meant to frame it for the purpose of the grant which is building community. The grant specialist suggested using Community in the name.

Heston: How long do you think this fiscal agent or sponsorship will last? Do we need to do this on a long-term basis?

Matthews-Salzman: The grant reporting would be before the end of the Farmers' Market season around October. My vision, it would be a one-time grant for buying infrastructure to establish to program. In the future, it could be volunteer run or a self-sustaining project.

Heston: Why did you not go to NOFA for these funds?

Matthews-Salzman: I went with the connection to the Town of Richmond as we are building the local community. NOFA is more of a statewide institution.

Heston: I think your organization is dependent on donations. I am willing to present to your Board to help convince them this is important. A 501c3 status is not difficult or expensive to obtain with the Board's current budget.

Matthews-Salzman: I brought our Certificate of Liability with the Town of Richmond listed as insured.

Furr moved to approve the Town to act as the fiscal sponsor for the Richmond Farmers Market grant application to the Vermont Community Foundation for their community kitchen project, to name Town Manager Josh Arneson as the Grant Administrator, to direct the Town Manager to oversee the distribution of the funds, and to exempt the disbursement of these funds from the Town procurement policy. Forward seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Consideration of approving the use of Town highways and the Rivershore Trail for running event on July 9

Feinson: I am one of the co-directors of the Richmond Trail Running Club which is a small group of about 100 local runners. We want to give back and engage with the community. We previously raised over \$2,500 for three different foundations with over 100 runners participate. This year, we have a mapped route that details a 42-mile ultramarathon footrace through Huntington, Starksboro, Hinesburg, Richmond, Bolton in a big circle passing through 6 major trail systems. We hope to serve our community by having local runners access these trail systems and generate proceeds for Vermont Mountain Biking chapters as well as the Abenaki Land Link Project. The race would take place on July 9th and go through Richmond from Huntington Rd to Dugway Rd before accessing the Cochran networks and then following the Rivershore Trail Preserve on Cochran Rd before going through Jonesville to Duxbury Rd to Bolton. We are asking for the support of the Town to have 50-60 runners pass through these areas which will be clearly marked with signs. Insurance is provided through the American Trail Runners Association. We also have a rain date in case the trails are too muddy.

Furr: Sounds like a fun event.

Hill: Is this a staggered start and how do you manage 50-60 folks on a narrow trail?

Feinson: The race starts at Brewster-Pierce School in Huntington with about 6 miles of dirt road running which will spread out runners. From 11 am – 3pm we expect no more than 20 runners per hour in Richmond.

Furr: Will someone direct traffic at the Cochran Rd intersection?

Feinson: Yes, we will have volunteers' stations to help direct traffic at a few key intersections. This includes the crossing over to Dugway Rd and the crossing on Cochran Rd.

Houle: There are no road closures, correct?

Feinson: Correct, we are just seeking permission to post signs and publicize the increased traffic on trails at that time.

Houle: I appreciate having spotters on the road crossings.

Forward moved to approve the Richmond Trail Running Club to utilize portions of Huntington Rd., Dugway Rd., Wheeler Ln., Cochran Rd. and Duxbury Rd. as well as the portions of the Rivershore Trail located in Richmond for their ultramarathon racecourse and to utilize Overrockers parking area as an aid station, for their ultramarathon running event on July 9, 2022, with a rain date of July 16, 2022. Furr seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Consideration of approving a contractor for grounds maintenance

Heston: We put out a Request for Proposal for ground maintenance to cover mowing for the Town. The Highway Department has been doing it in the past. The summaries of the 4 bids are included in the packet.

Arneson: We received 4 bids ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Highway Foreman, Pete Gosselin, called each one and estimating the amount of time from the past and eliminated

two of the bids based on their discussions. Stromme Properties projected costs of \$38,665 and understood the project and he was comfortable moving forward with them. We budgeted about \$50,000 as a placeholder for this job.

Heston: Stromme Properties adjusted their previous estimate of \$50,000.

Furr: Can you explain to two Purchase Orders and why they do not add up to \$38,665.

Arneson: The Purchase Orders are off by about \$0.11 per week before entering FY23 in July.

Houle: If you budgeted \$50,000, at the end of the season then can I put in for the planting of daffodils. There might be a \$1,500 budget for grounds stuff according to Pete. I would like to buy some daffodils and tulips that will eventually die down to nothing. At the end of the season, could I submit for reimbursement.

Heston: You could submit the request and we can consider where it comes out of.

Kart: Does the contract include garbage pickup or emptying garbage cans at Volunteers Green? In the past, there has been a lot of trash overflowing around certain areas of the park.

Heston: This only includes mowing.

Arneson: The Highway Crew will be responsible for garbage removal. We will look at appropriate locations for garbage cans.

Hill moved to award the grounds maintenance contract for the 2022 mowing season to Stromme Properties in the amount of \$38,665; and to approve the following Purchase Orders related to the grounds maintenance contract: PO #4226 to Stromme Properties in the amount of \$13,383 for fiscal year 2022 and PO #4228 to Stromme Properties in the amount of \$25,279 for fiscal year 2023. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Consideration of approval of applying for the Class 2 Roadway Grant and Structures Grant

Arneson: We apply each year for these VTrans paving grants. This year we are applying for paving grant for Bridge St (about 2.78 miles), and an upsized culvert on Stage Rd.

Forward moved to approve form TA60, the Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards, and to apply for the Structures and Highway grants and to name Pete Gosselin as the Grant Program Manager. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Public hearing to consider adoption or repeal of a rule requiring the wearing of face coverings indoors in public spaces

Furr moved to open the public hearing to consider adoption of a rule requiring the wearing of face coverings indoors in public spaces. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Heston: On February 22, 2022, the Selectboard adopted a rule requiring the wearing of face coverings in public spaces from Sunday March 6 thru Monday April 4. If adopted

tonight this rule will be in effect starting Tuesday, April 5 thru Sunday, April 30. At this point the rule will not longer be in effect per Act 1. The Selectboard could also vote to repeal the rule effective immediately or on a specific date. Or it could keep the rule place until April 4, 2022.

Furr moved to forgo reading the entire rule aloud and read only the title. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Furr: I am in favor of repealing the rule immediately. Many people have mentioned to me we are one of the few Towns with this rule.

Hill: I think we made the right decision in the past to keep the rule. I think this is now the right decision to repeal it immediately based on circumstances and evidence.

Heston: I agree.

West: I encourage you to repeal it.

Forward: You did the right thing at the right time. I would also like to hear from other folks who might have a greater need.

Sander: I have no regrets for imposing or continuing the rule. I think we are at a point now where the risk isn't as significant. Yet, I do not want to close the door on reimposing the mask mandate based on future transmissions.

Furr: After April 30, we would need new authorization from the State in reenact the mandate.

Sander: I don't think people should be discouraged or antagonized for wearing a mask if they so choose.

Forward: I will continue to wear a mask indoors in small spaces. It is a simple part of protection. But I do not think we should mandate it.

Hill: We should ask people to respect the decisions of their neighbors who still choose to wear a mask.

Heston: There will be a lot of people who still choose to wear a mask.

Furr moved to close the public hearing to consider adoption of a rule requiring the wearing of face coverings indoors in public spaces. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Furr moved to repeal the current Rule Requiring Wearing Face Coverings Indoors In Public Spaces effective immediately. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Public hearing to consider amendments to Municipal Park Ordinance

Furr moved to open the public hearing to consider amendments to Municipal Park Ordinance. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Furr moved to forgo reading the entire rule aloud and read only the title. Hill seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Arneson: The Municipal Park Ordinance provides clarification of changes at Volunteers Green and Browns Court with an updated map. The Ordinance changes are summarized as:

- Town Administrative Offices will approve events in the park. The Recreation Committee agrees that the Administrative Offices are better equipped to respond to these requests in a timely manner.
- Firearms cannot be discharged in the park
- Fires are prohibited
- Emergency vehicles can travel outside of Park roads if necessary
- Cannabis use or sales are prohibited in the Parks
- Parks open from dawn to dusk from April to October and open from dawn to 6 p.m. from November to March and allows Volunteers Green to be open until 10 pm when the skating rink is open.

West: Will people be able to walk their dogs after dark on Volunteers Green? This also references the Richmond Animal Control Ordinance. It still requires that all dogs must be on a leash in the Parks. A lot of people use the Parks with dogs for exercise while not on leashes. Last year, a police officer was reminding people that they had to always have their dog on a leash. For sanitation, a leash is more likely to remind people to pick up after their dogs. Yet, a lot of people need these Parks to exercise their dogs. The Parks are one of the few places not covered in ticks. Where is the Selectboard with leashes and dogs and exercise?

Heston: The conversation of a dog park has come up constantly.

Furr: Yes, I think there is a need for a dog park.

West: Dog parks are more like prison exercise yards. I would not go to a dog park to exercise my dog.

Sander: I was not aware of the leash policy. I run with my dogs off leash if there are no people in the park.

Heston: We have heard from a number of people who are afraid of dogs. They do not want to go to the park if there are going to be dogs off leash. I think this is a matter of respect. I have a 30-foot leash for my dog.

Houle: A dog park has a tremendous amount of liability. In Shelburne, there was a dog park and people would come from all over. They had issues with checking licenses and picking up after dogs. The Town Highway has voiced concerns about being responsible for picking up dog waste.

Heston: Most dog trainers will tell you not to bring your dog to a dog park.

Forward: The dog park is not part of this Ordinance change, correct?

Heston: Yes. What is our stance on leashes? It is in the Ordinance.

Hill: The current language in Section 4, sub-section A, “NO PERSON SHALL: Fail to comply with the Richmond Animal Control Ordinance. All domestic animals (as defined in the Town’s Animal Control Ordinance) must be on a leash.”

Forward: Right now, we are just considering the Ordinance changes that have been made. This is a yes or no question. If somebody wanted to bring up these types of changes then we would have a similar hearing.

Kart: I support the changes as proposed. In the future, maybe we look at broadening the language to “under owner’s control” rather than on a leash. The dog owners and walkers use the Park more than anyone else except maybe parents with young kids on the playground.

Arneson: We could make other changes to this Ordinance as this is a warned item.

Heston: Is there any desire to make more changes?

Hill: There are a lot of owners and dogs out there. It is a big park. I think people are generally using judgement. I think changing the language as Jon Kart suggested reflects what people actually do.

Heston: That language is used in a lot of places. We assume the owner knows if their pet is under control.

Forward: Shouldn’t we be looking at the Animal Control Ordinance instead of the Municipal Park Ordinance.

Hill: We essentially do not need the second sentence and should just list it as “Fail to comply with the Richmond Animal Control Ordinance” and strike out “All domestic animals (as defined in the Town’s Animal Control Ordinance) must be on a leash.” At a future date we could revisit the Town’s Animal Control Ordinance.

Nye: Dogs are off leash all the time up at Brown’s Court and pooping all over the green and not being picked up by the time kids & families arrive for other sports.

West: Yes, the Animal Control Ordinance requires that people pick up their dog’s waste and is enforceable by police. It also states in Section E, ““Running at large” means that a dog is not: 1. on a leash; 2. in a vehicle; 3. on the owner’s premises; 4. on the premises of another person with that person’s permission; 5. clearly under the verbal or non-verbal control of the owner; 6. hunting with the owner.” I think we could drop the last sentence and that would be great. I hope people are using the poop bags we have installed at Brown’s Court and Volunteers Green.

Nye: The Town does not empty the bucket up at Brown’s Court but my husband handles that disposal.

Hill: I recommend in Section 4.A.2 that we strike the second sentence.

Forward: This might be something for the Recreation Committee to investigate and bring us a recommendation.

Hill moved to close the public hearing to consider amendments to Municipal Park Ordinance. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Furr moved to adopt the amendments to the Municipal Park Ordinance as presented with a change to Section 4.A.2 of the Municipal Park Ordinance to read “Fail to comply with the Richmond Animal Control Ordinance” and remove “All domestic animals (as defined in the Town’s Animal Control Ordinance) must be on a leash.” Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Public hearing to consider amendments to the Traffic Ordinance

Furr moved to open the public hearing to consider amendments to the Traffic Ordinance. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Hill moved to forgo reading the entire rule aloud and read only the title. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Arneson: Most changes are related to parking. There are two sections. Section 6A focuses on parking on roads, and Section 6B focuses on parking in Municipal Lots and Parks. We removed two items in 6A. One is placed in 6B as it relates to parking lots and the other was removed because we no longer have snow removal zones. The parking in Volunteers Green, Brown’s Court and Overrocker park are addressed in 6B. It allows for 24-hour parking in area near Bridge St at Volunteers Green subject to Winter Parking Bans. The rest of the parking is subject to Park hours. It also makes changes to speed limits based on Huntington Rd and Hinesburg Rd as suggested by the Speed Study discussed at last meeting.

Forward: There has been a lot of discussion about speed changes on Kenyon Rd.

Arneson: The Speed Study does not suggest those changes so we cannot make that change without a change in the Speed Study.

Forward: If we want to make speed limit changes then we first need to do a Speed Study.

Arneson: Correct, we need a traffic engineer to do another Speed Study.

Hill: So, in order to change the speed limit on Hinesburg Rd to 35 mph as previously suggested in public comment then we would have to have a Speed Study to support that change. Otherwise, if we change the speed limit without a Speed Study then the speed limit is not enforceable.

Heston: The Speed Study was done, and the recommendation is 40 mph. The question is why the speed limit is 35 mph on the Hinesburg side and 40 mph on the Richmond side.

West: The description in the Traffic Ordinance on pg. 7, section F has weird language: “The owner of the motor vehicle shall pay and reimburse to the Town for the reasonable towing and storage charges, as determined by the Selectboard, for which a lien shall be imposed against the motor vehicle and its owner, or both, in addition to any other penalty.” That’s not the way it really works. I cannot tow a vehicle off of the street and hold it for payment without a Municipal lien as there is not a statewide lien. Somehow the Selectboard is going to pay me, and the owner would pay the Selectboard. This is archaic and someday we should work that out of there.

Waite: I did want to voice support for speed limit changes on Hinesburg Rd.

Forward: I have some problems on the previous Speed Study. The way people drive on the place where they monitored speed is very different than other parts of the road. It also depends on which direction they are traveling or going up or down hill. I am in favor of the changes from 45 mph to 40 mph. I think we should encourage another Speed Study for Kenyon Rd.

Furr: We are discussing the follow up questions to the Speed Studies in section (n) of tonight's agenda.

Arneson: There was no suggestion in the Speed Study to reduce the speed limit on Kenyon Rd.

Forward: I am not suggesting that we do it tonight, but I disagree with the Speed Study proposal of no speed limit change on Kenyon Rd.

Heston: The recommendation for the pinch point is to put up a Caution Sign and not an enforceable Speed Limit sign.

Forward: It is a dangerous area.

Furr: I agree but a Caution Sign is the best option we have at this time.

Waite: I love the idea of Caution Signs on the spots on Kenyon and Hinesburg Rd and Fay's Corner. There are other tricky spots and other blind curves and hills. I feel like additional signage would help people recognize other users on the roads. It would make me feel safer.

West: Yellow Caution Signs would be a wonderful investment for that location and other places where we can afford to put them.

Furr moved to close the public hearing to consider amendments to the Traffic Ordinance. Hill seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Furr moved to adopt the amendments to the Traffic Ordinance as presented. Hill seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Consideration of approval of liquor licenses

Furr: For public reference, a first-class license is to serve beer and wine, a third-class license is allowed to serve spirits, and a second-class license is retail sells.

Parent: That is all listed on the cover letter.

Heston: Hatchet is not listed in here as the license is renewed on the anniversary of their opening.

Hill moved to approve first class liquor license and outdoor consumption permits for LJM Enterprises Inc DBA Papa McKee's Pizzeria, Stone Corral Brewery LLC, DBA Stone Corral, and Pine Martin LLC DBA Stone's Throw Pizza. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Hill moved to approve second class liquor licenses for AGS Vermont Inc DBA Richmond Market & Beverage, RMM Enterprises DBA Richmond Mobil Mart, William Donovan Inc DBA Lucky Spot, and Cumberland Farms of Vermont Inc. DBA Cumberland Farms, Pine Martin LLC DBA Stone's Throw Pizza. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Hill moved to approve third class liquor licenses for LJM Enterprises Inc DBA Papa McKee's Pizzeria, and Stone Corral Brewery LLC, DBA Stone Corral. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Consideration of nominating Richmond Rescue for Ambulance Service of the Year

Heston: Nominations are due April 22, and Richmond Rescue director Michael Chiarella has asked us to consider them for Ambulance Service of the Year. We also have a Richmond Rescue report that we will review later tonight. Our approval would carry some weight in the process.

Hill moved to nominate Richmond Rescue for the 2022 Vermont EMS Award Ambulance Service of the Year. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Consideration of approving a grant application for Congressionally Directed Spending for Town Center Renovations

Forward: Last year, Senator Leahy reinstated Congressionally Directed Spending also knows as "earmarks." Last year, I found out about these earmarks on a Tuesday for a Friday deadline. This is how it happened again this year. I resubmitted the application for energy and windows improvement for this building at \$4,000,000. I was encouraged to submit the application from last year and got it in on Friday. I did not have time to present it to the Selectboard prior to the deadline. This is my request to do it after the fact.

Heston: Although not typical, we thought it was prudent. We could always withdrawal our application.

Forward: There will also be a second opportunity. Even if it is included in the package, it won't necessarily be approved by the Federal Budget. If we were awarded this grant, we could also turn it down.

Furr: I have no problem with this authorization.

Hill: If there is Federal money from earmarks or ARPA or road grants then it is not free money as we pay into it. It is just not raised by local taxes. I think it is a worthwhile project.

Hill moved to approve submitting an application for Congressionally Directed Spending for renovations to the Town Center and to name Town Manager Josh Arneson as the Grant Manager. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Forward abstain. Motion approved

Discussion of response from VTrans regarding the Rt. 2 paving project; review of culvert replacement project on Rt. 2 east of the village; and easement request at the Fire Department

Arneson: This is three topics in one. Joe Flynn, VTrans Secretary of Transportation, sent a letter back that stated they are making no more changes to the engineering plans and went out to bid for the re-paving project. We are looking for those areas of the shoulder that are less than 5-feet between the Village and Park & Ride. We also wanted to investigate stormwater structures and drainage in that area in anticipation of putting in sidewalks. VTrans is not looking at that anymore. We need to figure out how we want to respond. VTrans said they needed to get the project out to bid. They heard our concerns but not enough to do anything specific. We also received the easement request for the Fire Station. It would not affect the development of that property as you couldn't build there anyway. The VTrans Negotiating Team confirmed it is the aerial wires and there will be no poles in our right of way but perhaps a push brace on the property. They are going to change the slope to support the road. Their goals are to leave it in the same or better condition. The percentages on the easement request are based on the impact. The 10% represents the temporary nature as they will be in and out with no significant changes. The 40% of Fair Market Value is based on the aerial wires and they are still keeping it open for access. We are still looking at Rt. 2 as a whole. The Town wants VTrans to recognize these projects as tied together or of a singular impact to our residents. There is a pre-construction meeting this Thursday for 7 culvert replacements between the Village and Bolton. This project is awarded to Hutchins with construction beginning in April. There is not much change that is going to happen as they will replace culverts one for one on E. Main St. Also, it wasn't in a spot where focused on the 5-foot shoulders.

Heston: We followed up today with Sen. Thomas Chittenden and Rep. Jana Brown to talk about our concerns. It does not make financial sense to rebuild and refurbish the road and not do all the other things that will need to be ripped up again for culverts. They are both going to ask some questions to see if they can help us.

Hill: This process has been going on for 5 years. Most of the time, VTrans says it is either too soon or too late to talk about the details. We have been consistent with our requests and messaging. Replacing culverts is a no-brainer before the pavement. VTrans talks about active transportation and access to public transportation but not being able to get to the Park & Ride is an example of bureaucratic insanity. It does not serve the people of the State well to have this disordered process. We get the maps to review the details and then they tell us it is too late. This is a symptom of a flawed process.

Heston: It is a flawed process. They operate in silos, the paving, drainage, and culvert people are all different. We are looking to accomplish some climate goals, so he is going to bring that up.

Sander: VTrans said we are rebuilding in the future you need to get the subterranean work done now. We replaced the water line and street scape engineering for the sidewalks. All the residents on the north side of E. Main St. have still have no sidewalks. That put the Town in a lurch, but we have not functional sidewalks and residents on E. Main St have dealt with flooding in road front or in basements. There has been a lack of cooperation from VTrans with Town of Richmond as it pertains to stormwater outfall on E. Main St.

Heston: We reviewed those today with our Senator and Representative.

Hill: Do we have a conversation with VTrans along with our Senator and Representative?

Heston: Senator Chittenden will reach out to VTrans and wait for further advice.

Arneson: His email says he discussed with Michele Boomhower and Secretary Flynn a change order of the project to fix and replace culverts to allow for 5-foot shoulder, fix the slope of retaining walls to accommodate 5-foot shoulders between the Town and Park & Ride, and to address the stormwater issues.

Hill: This is another future agenda item.

Arneson: I will go to the pre-construction meeting this Thursday for 7 culvert replacements.

Forward: Will there will be road closures for the culvert replacements?

Arneson: I am not sure. Hopefully not as we would need to be notified to use Cochran Rd.

Hill: Let's give them credit for replacing the old culverts. We need to look at the impact of closures and we should know well in advance.

Follow up on questions related to Speed Studies for Hinesburg Rd. Huntington Rd. and Kenyon Rd.

Arneson: I will follow up to the responses and future discussion. Highway Foreman, Pete Gosselin said there were no speed signs removed from the area that was discussed on Kenyon Rd. During the 2012 bridge reconstruction, there were temporary 25 mph speed limit signs posted beside the barn at 1492 Kenyon Rd. In regard to the speed limit change across the Hinesburg/Richmond border along Hinesburg Rd, the Chittenden County RPC studied the section on the Richmond side. There might be other conditions or past studies that led to the 35 mph in Hinesburg. We also asked about the steep hill on Kenyon Rd and the response is one feature of the road does not constitute a speed limit change. Caution signs might be appropriate but cannot justify a speed limit change on a straight-away.

Sander: The speed limit on Kenyon Rd from Rt 2 goes from 25 mph to 35 mph. There is a 90-degree corner and an old guardrail right after the pinch point at 1492 Kenyon Rd. I do not follow the logic. I would be in favor of yellow cautionary reduce speed or limited sight distance signs.

Heston: That is an option, and we can talk to Pete about doing that.

Hill: For a future agenda item, we can also ask Pete what else can be done other than signage?

Brushett: I propose we do the same thing on Hinesburg Rd in two dangerous areas. There is a bad spot by the hill with a very hard curve where someone died going off the road. Lots of people bike this road and there are no shoulders. This road is treacherous even to walk or run. Could we make the shoulders a little bit wider and safer? We should really have fog lines. It would be good to have a warning of a sharp curve to slow down and a sign by the pullout and sharp turn. Can we also do something about the big trucks using their jack brakes in a residential area?

Heston: This is a future agenda item; we will invite Pete to discuss what is feasible.

Update on Solid Waste Transfer Station services

Heston: Casella anticipates having services up and running by March 31 except for the ReUse Zone. They are working on compliance and DRB approval. With approval the ReUse Zone should be open sometime in May. This process was longer than they anticipated. I wonder why they cannot use shipping containers as the ReUse Zone like they use for batteries and other electronics.

Hill: We might ask them why not just modify a shipping container? I am amazed at how much useful stuff still needs to go into the trash because Goodwill or ReUse didn't want it.

Heston: Goodwill and ReUse are overwhelmed.

Furr: I am surprised how quickly some people pick up stuff from ReUse. I would rather have that than dump in a landfill.

Forward: The Solid Waste District closed down the ReUse Zone because some people just avoid paying the transfer station fee, but it isn't really reusable like old upholstery. It took their Staff too much to move it to the transfer station side.

Heston: They also had to deal with belligerent customers.

Hill: We need better information about what goes into the ReUse zone. You are supposed to pay for it regardless of it being in the ReUse Zone or not. That policy was not enforced. There needs to be more education on the policies.

Sander: I would rather see an old couch in the ReUse Zone or dumpster than on the side of Kenyon Rd.

Discussion of review of auditing services proposals

Heston: Connie and Jim Feinson are reviewing the proposals. Is there a Selectboard member who will also review the proposals.

Furr: I would help out but defer to June's experiences.

Hill: I also nominate June.

Heston: Jay & I will review those proposals.

Arneson: Connie has already called on some references.

Heston: Can we talk about the audit proposal that was significantly lower?

Arneson: The proposals ranged from \$14,500 up to \$32,200 with a third at \$28,000. Connie did some follow up and the lowest proposal has done work with Ludlow, and they are happy with their services. They have also given this price for 3 years. I will help coordinate between Selectboard and Connie.

Review of the Richmond Rescue Patient Satisfaction Survey

Heston: I was very happy to read through this very helpful information.

Forward: This supports our nomination from earlier. The median doesn't really make a lot of sense as a lot of people are very happy while only a few do not.

Heston: Very informative, as the response time for people outside of Richmond were very satisfied.

Forward: It is impressive they respond to Starksboro. I know Hinesburg is getting a Rescue service. Do we get something when we respond to different Towns?

Houle: They are a private agency, and they can serve other communities as a billable service.

Furr: If you pay your annual subscription then they waive the service fee.

Hill: Their level of coverage and measured response time is high quality.

Furr: The comments are very glowing.

Forward: Compassion ranks very high. I would want skill first and then compassion as the most significant.

Update on financial training offered by New England Municipal Resources Center

Heston: Do we sign up on our own?

Arneson: Yes, give them a call to setup a time.

Hill: It might benefit to do a few people at a time.

Heston: Let's put out a few dates for some small groups.

Arneson: I can have Duncan help coordinate some dates and times.

Discussion of April Selectboard schedule

Heston: Both Josh and I will be out on April 18th.

Forward: It is school vacation week.

Hill: I support meeting on April 25th.

Heston: We will move to April 25th.

Arneson: I will have it warned at least two weeks in advance.

Approval of Minutes Warrants and Purchase Orders:

Warrants

Heston: You mentioned a petty cash shortage of \$37.70.

Arneson: It is probably money used for postage or used to make change that was not documented properly with a receipt. We spoke about having better controls as we have sign outs and slips available to track this type of activity.

Furr: Aside from Linda and Martha, who else would have access to the petty cash?

Arneson: It is mostly Linda and Martha or occasionally Connie.

Heston: In the payroll warrants, there are two payments and I do not understand why that is done.

Arneson: Half it comes out of the two different pay periods for the employee. Or it is allocated in that payroll 50% during two payrolls. But the month shows one total bill. The bill looks different than what comes out in each pay period. Same thing with dues for the union

Heston: The CCRPC amount paid and amount invoiced didn't seem to line up.

Arneson: We are just paying 10-20% of that amount based on the grant that we have.

Heston: If you go down further there is a note. She is only paying \$387.56.

Arneson: She is showing the full amount being paid on this P.O. It shows how much else we have to pay based on our previous December payment. She is printing out the actual numeric portion and circling the previous P.O.

Hill: It might make it easier for multiple people to glance through it to just circle the P.O. number as well.

Heston: For Hinesburg Sand & Gravel, this I could not figure out. Why is there an invoice of 12/3 and a date paid 3/8?

Arneson: We had a stockpile of winter sand, so this is the first time we had to pay for it this winter.

Heston: I have a question on simpleroute, P.O. 4324.

Arneson: This is the total amount we pay per month to simpleroute for managed services. Twelve of our computers are in Town Office and four computers are with Water & Wastewater. So, we break it down for computers in Water and Wastewater by year and then my month. We split it 30% to Water and 70% to Wastewater.

Heston: Can I get into NEMRC virtually?

Arneson: All you do is login virtually where you can only access NEMRC.

Heston: There are a couple of late bills. How do we eliminate late bills?

Arneson: Sometimes it doesn't get to the Department Head on time. The Department Heads then have a deadline of Tuesday to pass along to Connie.

Heston: VLCT provides training for Selectboard members. Is that paid for by the Town?

Arneson: Yes, just charge it back to the Town. Go sign up and just put in Richmond and PACIF Members fee.

*Furr moved to approve Warrants as presented. Hill seconded
Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved*

Minutes

*Furr moved to approve the minutes of 3/7/2022 as written. Hill seconded
Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved*

Purchase Orders

The following Purchase Orders were approved earlier in the Selectboard meeting:

Hill move to award the grounds maintenance contract for the 2022 mowing season to Stromme Properties in the amount of \$38,665; and to approve the following Purchase Orders related the grounds maintenance contract: PO #4226 to Stromme Properties in the amount of \$13,383 for fiscal year 2022 and PO #4228 to Stromme Properties in the amount of \$25,279 for fiscal year 2023. Furr seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Discuss Items for Next Agenda

- _Seasonal Recreational Parking Committee name change and plans for spring/summer
- _Signage on Kenyon Rd
- _Policy for speed issues in conjunction with Traffic Committee and Pete Gosselin
- _Hearing for Capital Plan
- _Decision on Audit Services
- _Changes for Zoning before Public Hearing
- _Lake Iroquois Recreational District

Adjournment

Hill moved to adjourn. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm

Chat file from Zoom:

- 01:02:14 Vicky Barnak: Please repeal the masks. There is no justification to continue.
- 01:02:31 Vicky Barnak: It would be an abuse of power to continue.
- 02:24:51 jim w: This is Julie Waite - thank you everyone. Bye.