

**R I C H M O N D S E L E C T B O A R D
R E G U L A R M E E T I N G
M a y 6 , 2 0 1 3 M I N U T E S**

Members Present: June Heston, Chair; Amy Lord, Vice-Chair; Chris Granda; Ashley Lucht; Taylor Yeates
 Absent: None
 Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Bruce LaBounty; Mary Houle; Ernie Kelley; Mark Fausel; Maureen Kangley; Erik Sandblom; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

June Heston called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Heston asked for public comment but there was none.

2. Items for Discussion with Those Present

Planning Commission Interviews

Mr. Granda said that he had spoken with Mark Fausel and said that he did not want the Selectboard to make a final decision this evening. Therefore, new Planning Commission members might not be seated until the June meeting. Mary Houle suggested making appointments but having them not take their seats immediately. The Manager further explained that Mr. Fausel had said to him he would like to keep the membership at five for now and appoint two additional members later after the current appointees had a chance to get acclimated to the board.

The Selectboard first interviewed Mary Houle. Ms. Houle explained her background as a previous member of the Planning Commission and her work on the Town Plan, as well as other aspects of her background.

Chair Heston asked if there was any statute that prohibited a lister from also serving on the Planning Commission and Ms. Houle said no.

Ms. Lucht asked if Ms. Houle was aware of the level of commitment and Ms. Houle said she was.

Ms. Lord asked about the Town Plan. Ms. Houle said that the Town Plan she worked on has changed much since. She suggested that Town Plans be ten year cycles instead of five.

Chair Heston asked if Ms. Houle was a developer, and Ms. Houle said no but she was a private landowner and feels people should be allowed to develop land.

Ms. Houle said to the Selectboard she was distressed about what Mr. Granda had said at the last meeting about the defeat of the regulations. She said that the revised document was lofty and needs to be written by Richmond people, not a package from a place like Connecticut. The planning document should not feel like it was written by a consultant.

Chair Heston thanked Ms. Houle and invited Bruce LaBounty to come forward.

1
2 Bruce LaBounty said he grew up in Vermont, in Essex village and has lived in Richmond for 25 years.
3 He wanted rules that would allow his children to continue to live here. He said that too many
4 restrictions just push up the value of the remaining land.
5
6 Ms. Lucht asked if Mr. LaBounty was aware of the commitment this would be and he said he was
7 aware of it and was familiar with the document that was voted on last year. He said he donated time to
8 youth sports but does have time to commit to the Planning Commission.
9
10 Ms. Lord asked if he had any land to develop. Mr. LaBounty said he has some land and has done
11 some projects in town but he had no plans now.
12
13 Mr. Granda spoke about comments he made at the last meeting, and said he wasn't criticizing the
14 outcome or how people voted, but parts of the process. He asked Mr. LaBounty's thoughts on this.
15 Mr. LaBounty said that was typical of what happens, and some people who vote want to save
16 development and this creates a firestorm about zoning. He wasn't sure what could have been done to
17 make things better at that time or what would have worked better.
18
19 Mr. Lord asked what Mr. LaBounty thought about the Town Plan. Mr. LaBounty said he didn't know
20 the Town Plan very well but knew the regulations better. He feels some of the regulations were
21 overstepping and everyone needs to have a chance at affordable living. People should be able to build
22 what they can afford.
23
24 Chair Heston thanked Mr. LaBounty and asked Ernie Kelley to come forward.
25
26 Mr. Kelley said he was interested after being asked by several community members. He has always
27 stood on the sidelines of politics, and he wasn't a developer and worked for the Department of
28 Environmental Conservation for the state. He understood environmental limitations for development
29 and there was a careful involvement of landowner interest without becoming a Williston or South
30 Burlington. He recognized there was rarely any land for people who were young and starting out and
31 this needed to be brought into balance. He said that our zoning is almost like the Code of Federal
32 Regulations.
33
34 Mr. Granda asked how he would approach zoning. Mr. Kelley said the town needed to harness the
35 outrage. The town needed to focus and bring people in and needed to get the right information out
36 there. There was an opportunity to get concepts out there and try to feel what the community was
37 thinking.
38
39 Ms. Lord asked if he had served on any other town committees, and Mr. Kelley said no. Mr. Granda
40 asked if he had any developable property, and Mr. Kelley said no.
41
42 Chair Heston thanked Mr. Kelley. She said there was one other interview that would be on May 20th,
43 and wanted Mark Fausel's input on filling vacancies. She added she would not be here on May 20th.
44
45 Mr. Yeates suggested Ms. Heston could send her thoughts to the Selectboard prior to the next
46 meeting.
47
48 Mark Fausel said that the Planning Commission had just gone through the Flood Hazard Overlay
49 District and village parking and trying to bring in someone new at this time was difficult. He didn't

1 want to have too many new people until this one topic had been agreed upon and recommended to the
2 Selectboard.

3
4 Chair Heston said new appointments would not be made earlier than June 3rd.

5 6 **3. Other Business**

7 8 Governance Committee

9
10 The Manager explained that only recently two people had expressed interest in serving on this
11 committee: Jon Kart and Frederick Barrett.

12
13 Mr. Yeates said that this seemed to be a non-issue since no one wanted to serve. He said the
14 Selectboard could try and reduce this to three members.

15
16 Ms. Heston said that reducing the membership sounded like a better option. She said that she wasn't
17 looking to ax the listers but a recommendation should be made.

18
19 Mr. Yeates said that legislation would be passed to make this a possibility without the need for the
20 Selectboard to get involved.

21
22 Mr. Yeates offered a motion to decrease the membership of the governance committee to three
23 members of the public and was seconded by Mr. Granda. Ms. Lord agreed that this was the best
24 option. The motion carried 5-0.

25 26 Appointment of Paul Hauf to Economic Development Committee

27
28 Ms. Lord explained that Mr. Hauf would fill the remaining vacancy on the Economic Development
29 Committee. He lives in the village and is very interested in what is happening. Ms. Lord offered a
30 motion to appoint Mr. Hauf to the Economic Development Committee for the remaining vacancy, a
31 one-year appointment, and was seconded by Ms. Lucht. The motion carried 5-0.

32 33 KAS Bill – Erik Sandblom

34
35 Mr. Sandblom requested reconsideration of an additional billing he provided to the town for services
36 related to the Flood Plain Map appeal and Letter of Map Revision. Since April of 2012 there had been
37 much work to prepare and submit the application. He added that his representative went to the
38 Williston meeting and some other items that added to the time involved. He said that the process
39 wasn't over yet, and on March 26th there was a request for additional information related to the
40 transitions in Williston and Jericho. He asked the Selectboard to reconsider and pay the requested
41 \$2,534.50 as well as an additional \$640 for additional work related to future filings. He said that no
42 other town would receive this amount of work for less than \$90,000 or \$100,000 from a Stantec or a
43 CDM. This work added value to the community, which he was happy to provide.

44
45 There was discussion about particular items, and items across fiscal years. Mr. Granda said there was
46 always a danger of scope creep, and not effective with timely billing. Mr. Sandblom said he
47 understood that and he said he did not have a tight handle on how much the work would be in the
48 beginning.

49

1 The Manager added that he had been told that there was a possibility of additional expenditures and
2 time beyond the original scope, however, the project had to move forward.

3
4 Mary Houle said that a member of the audience had to speak to Erik Sandblom about this bill.

5
6 Chair Heston said that they were coming upon year end both sides had to be willing to reconsider. Mr.
7 Granda said he wanted to maintain a good relationship with Mr. Sandblom, but the late billing
8 couldn't happen in the future.

9
10 Ms. Lord recapped the request at \$2,534.50 and \$640.

11
12 Mr. Sandblom added that he would not proceed with additional work unless he had the ok from the
13 Selectboard.

14
15 Mr. Granda offered a motion to approve the bill from January 13, 2013 in the amount of \$2,534.50 and
16 an additional \$640 in future billing related to this project, and was seconded by Ms. Lucht. The
17 motion carried 5-0.

18 19 Athletic Event Policy

20
21 The Selectboard reviewed the draft athletic event policy. The Manager explained that this had been
22 explored last year but never fully developed. Ms. Lucht said that there needed to a requirement for
23 direct notification of area residents. Mr. Yeates said we needed to add a post-event cleanup provision,
24 or a deposit for insurance of clean up.

25
26 There was additional discussion.

27
28 Maureen Kangley said she had not seen trash as a problem after the races.

29
30 Ms. Lord said we needed to develop a race form with a checklist.

31
32 Bruce LaBounty suggested we add an event calendar for these.

33
34 The Selectboard agreed to bring this back for more review following revisions.

35 36 Public Works Spec

37
38 The Manager explained the background on this item. The current public works spec was developed in
39 the 1990s and updated in 2000. This project was started in 2008 and has been held up for several
40 years. It has been reviewed and approved by the Highway Foreman and Water Superintendent, but
41 the Planning Commission was still trying to finalize the document.

42
43 Mr. Yeates asked how this was adopted, and the Manager said it would be by ordinance. Ms. Lord
44 asked which revision would come first, zoning or this document, and the Manager said he would find
45 out.

46
47 Mr. Yeates asked for a timeframe, and the Manager said hopefully by December of this year.

48
49 Bruce LaBounty asked that a copy be made available to the public on the website. He added that the
50 DRB was waiving private road specifications.

1
2 Mary Houle added that the DRB decisions were surprising and the town should not have to take over
3 common land, and there were inconsistencies in how the regulations were being applied.

4
5 There was some discussion and it was agreed that the draft spec could be posted with comments.

6
7 Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2013

8
9 Mr. Yeates pointed out the titles at the top needed to be changed. Mr. Yeates offered a motion to
10 approve the minutes as amended and was seconded by Ms. Lord and the motion carried 5-0.

11
12 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

13
14 Ms. Lord reported that the Economic Development Committee had been involved with the Water Rate
15 Task Force and was spreading the word on the customers meeting on May 16th. There was a
16 discussion about the proposed rate increase. Mr. Granda said that the village needed to grow its
17 customer base. Ms. Lord spoke about the creamery parcel, and asked how the town could move the
18 cleanup along.

19
20 The Manager noted that the Regional Planning Commission had done an environmental assessment.
21 This would be provided to the Selectboard.

22
23 Ms. Lord said that the Economic Development Committee had met on the Depot Street parking lot,
24 about the design, and possible rain garden. This would be discussed at the next meeting on May 17th.

25
26 Ms. Lucht reported that she and the Manager had a conference call with Civics Plus regarding a
27 possible website design. It was an expensive service, but they were trying to move into Vermont and
28 there might be a discount for their first customer. Her current focus was on the water rates.

29
30 Ms. Lucht reported that the Water Rate Task Force had met four times this year and on April 29th they
31 had a meeting where the task force recommended a rate increase. This was based on the following
32 items: there had been a misallocation of septage revenue to water revenue which needed to stop;
33 overall septage revenues were declining; debts were coming due and more improvements were
34 necessary; and the board was committed to fully funding the capital plan.

35
36 Chair Heston asked about the timing.

37
38 Ms. Lucht said that the rates weren't currently affected by the Depot Street parking lot or water line
39 work. She said that the water tank project hadn't been included in the rate calculations either, but it
40 was old and there were no longer any guarantees with repair work. There were outstanding pressure
41 and capacity issues that the state needed to see addressed. She said a conversation about sharing costs
42 with the town needed to happen. She thanked all of the members of the water rate task force for their
43 work.

44
45 Round Church Green discussion

46
47 The Manager explained that the Richmond Historical Society was trying to address parking issues at
48 Round Church Road, including complaints that it was overutilized on weekends. The residents there
49 had issues with gatherings and sometimes trash, as well as getting through during weddings or other
50 events. Several town staff had met with them to try and develop solutions to these issues, as well as

1 develop a plan for the road during the 200th anniversary event. This would likely mean a temporary
2 road closure, with a way for the residents to access their driveways.

3
4 Regional Planning Commission Work Plan Update – Traffic Study

5
6 The Manager reported that the original scope of work required a \$40,000 budget. This was developed
7 with Stantec, one of the Regional Planning Commission's engineering partners. The CCRPC recently
8 announced a partial award of \$20,000. It was unclear what the town would get, but Stantec
9 recommended that the alternatives examination and report be eliminated. The Manager and the Town
10 Planner felt that this made the study meaningless and recommended the town turn down the award,
11 and reapply next year. The required cash match could also be placed into the FY15 budget. The
12 Selectboard concurred with this recommendation.

13
14 There was some discussion about Route 2, and the timing of the traffic and pedestrian lights at four
15 corners. Chair Heston said that the town needed to have a four-way stop to allow time for pedestrians
16 to move across the road there.

17
18 The Selectboard reviewed the Richmond Rescue quarterly reports. Chair Heston said that these
19 reports continued to be what the Selectboard was looking for, and thanked the Rescue squad for
20 providing them.

21
22 The Manager reported that he, Linda Parent, Martha Laing and Cathleen Gent received cardio
23 pulmonary resuscitation training from Richmond Rescue, as well as defibrillator training.

24
25 Consent Agenda

26
27 Ms. Lucht offered a motion to approve the consent agenda and was seconded by Ms. Lord.

28
29 The Manager explained the final modification to the ARRA funding of project AR1-058, and the
30 access request for Bressor on Thompson Road (TR0069).

31
32 Mary Houle said that during the listers activity she noticed some construction going on at TR0069
33 without a permit and asked that it be looked into.

34
35 The motion carried 5-0.

36
37 The warrants were approved with one correction to the State of Vermont water testing.

38
39 It was agreed that the next warrants would be reviewed by Mr. Yeates and Ms. Lord.

40
41 **4. Adjourn**

42 Motion by Mr. Granda to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Lucht. So voted.