

**RICHMOND SELECTBOARD
REGULAR MEETING
May 16, 2016 MINUTES**

Members Present: David Sander; Ellen Kane (arrived 6:10); Bard Hill; Steve May

Absent: Lincoln Bressor

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Mary Houle; Judy Rosovsky; Brian Carpenter; Ian Bender; Jon Kart; Mark Sperry; Taylor Yeates; Bob Reap; Alison Anand; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

David Sander called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Mr. Sander asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session to the first item to discuss the Bordeaux Lane litigation issue and to add IIIId – amending a liquor license for the Hatchet. Ms. Kane offered a motion to approve each item and was seconded by Mr. May, and the motions carried 4-0.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Sander asked if there were any comments from the public.

Gabe Firman, owner of the Hatchet, asked when his item was on the agenda and was told under item III.

Mary Houle offered a welcome back to the Town Manager, Geoffrey Urbanik, who had been on a two-month medical leave of absence.

2. Executive Session

Mr. Sander explained that we required an executive session to discuss litigation related to the Bordeaux property lien. Mr. Sander read a resolution establishing the need for an executive session, which was supported by a motion from Ms. Kane and seconded by Mr. May and carried 4-0

Mr. Hill offered a motion to enter an executive session at 7:15 PM and was seconded by Mr. May and the motion carried 4-0. The Town Manager and Town Attorney were invited into the session.

At 7:35 PM, Mr. May offered a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular session, and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sander explained that negotiations on the town's lien are still underway.

3. Reorganization

Mr. Sander explained that the Selectboard reorganizes following Town Meeting. This year, due to the schedule problems and the absence of the Town Manager, the Selectboard deferred reorganization until this meeting. The Selectboard required to select a chair, vice-chair and town attorney.

Mr. Sander asked for nominations for chair. Mr. Hill nominated Ellen Kane for chair, and was seconded by Mr. May. Mr. Sander said that he had spoken with Ms. Kane and felt she would make a good chair. There being no further nominations, the motion carried 4-0.

1 Mr. Sander thanked everyone for a good year.

2
3 Ms. Kane then asked for nominations for vice-chair. Ms. Kane nominated Mr. Hill for vice chair, and
4 was seconded by Mr. May. There was some discussion, and Mr. Hill noted he had a full schedule but
5 he felt he could fulfill the duties of vice-chair. The motion carried 4-0.

6
7 Appointment of Town Attorney

8
9 The Manager explained that some Selectboard members had inquired about issuing an RFP for legal
10 services this year. The Manager suggested that the Selectboard could do this, and agree to continue to
11 use Mark Sperry for existing cases until they conclude. There was some discussion and the
12 Selectboard agreed to proceed in this fashion.

13
14 Mr. Sander offered a motion to issue an RFP for legal services, and continue to use Mark Sperry from
15 Langrock, Sperry and Wool for open cases. Mr. May seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-
16 0.

17
18 Board & Committee Appointments

19
20 The Manager explained that a handful of vacancies still existed on some boards and committees.

21
22 **DRB Alternates:** Allison Anand – new applicant is seeking appointment to the alternate position. Brad
23 Worthen – reappointment to alternate position – has not returned inquiries.

24
25 **Conservation Commission:** Alison Anand is seeking reappointment but given her longevity on the CC has
26 offered to seek appointment as an Alternate on the DRB. Alison has been on the Conservation Commission
27 since 1992 with a brief 2 year leave from 2012 to 2014. She will be at the Selectboard meeting

28
29 Frederick Barrett is seeking reappointment. He was appointed to fill an unexpired term on 4/16/14, which
30 means that he has not yet completed one full term. He will be out of state and not able to attend the Selectboard
31 meeting

32
33 Kristin Martin Nelson – new applicant – She will be at the Selectboard meeting
34 Mary Houle – new applicant – She will be at the Selectboard meeting

35
36 **Recreation Committee:** One vacancy, no interest so far.

37
38 **Richmond Rescue Liaison:** One vacancy, no interest so far.

39
40 **Water Commission Customer Seats (2):** Fran Huntoon, Greg Tucker, Bob Reap have expressed
41 interest to replace outgoing members Bruce Bailey and Robert Fischer. All three are expected to be at
42 the Selectboard meeting.

43
44 **Town Fence Viewer and Civil Defense Director** remain vacant.

45
46 Ms. Kane started the discussion. She said that there was a vacancy on DRB Alternate, and that Alison
47 Anand had expressed interest since the appointment policy indicated that her multiple terms on the
48 Conservation Commission meant someone new should be appointed.

49
50 Ian Bender asked if the chair of the Development Review Board had been asked about this
51 appointment? The Manager said he had not been consulted. There was some discussion.

1
2 Judy Rosovsky, chair of the Conservation Commission, said it was sad to lose either Alison Anand or
3 Rick Barrett.
4
5 Mary Houle, who was interested in a Conservation Commission appointment, said that the chairs of all
6 committees should be abundantly aware of vacancies. The Town Manager directs interested persons
7 to those who make decisions.
8
9 Taylor Yeates said that there was a check/balance between the DRB and the Selectboard. The
10 Selectboard should not get approval for appointments from the DRB.
11
12 Mr. Hill offered a motion to appoint Alison Anand to the DRB Alternate #1 and was seconded by Mr.
13 May, and the motion carried 4-0.
14
15 Ms. Kane noted that since Alison Anand had stepped aside from her seat on the Conservation
16 Commission, there were now three people interested in two seats. It was noted that Rick Barrett had
17 filled an unexpired term previously, so he wasn't serving two complete terms at this time and was
18 eligible for reappointment. There were also Kristen Nelson and Mary Houle.
19
20 Mr. Sander offered a motion to reappoint Rick Barrett to the Conservation Commission, and was
21 seconded by Mr. May. The motion carried 4-0.
22
23 There was some discussion that Kristen Nelson wasn't present for an interview, but Mary Houle was.
24 There was discussion on the letters of interest and background of each.
25
26 Bob Reap said that Mary Houle was knowledgeable, and present.
27
28 Judy Rosovsky said that she was knowledgeable, but was concerned over past comments about the
29 Conservation Reserve Fund. There was additional discussion.
30
31 Mr. Hill offered a motion to appoint Mary Houle to the Conservation Commission, and was seconded
32 by Mr. May.
33
34 Alison Anand said that Mary Houle has publicly said that the Conservation Reserve Fund should
35 sunset.
36
37 Mary Houle said she has said it is a town vote to renew it or not, and it wasn't her intention to defeat
38 the fund.
39
40 Jon Kart said that Ms. Houle has an agenda with this, and the last time the fund was on the ballot,
41 when Ms. Houle was on the Selectboard, she walked out of the room to remove a quorum for
42 discussion on the item so the board could not accept the petition.
43
44 Ms. Rosovsky agreed with Mr. Kart, and said again she was knowledgeable but there would be
45 concerns about her membership.
46
47 Mary Houle said she had planted 3,000 trees, and 2,500 of them on her land. She gave an overview of
48 her efforts at conservation.
49

1 There was Selectboard conversation. Mr. Sander asked how she would see her role on Gillett Pond
2 restoration? There was some additional discussion and the vote was taken. The motion carried 3-1
3 with Ms. Kane voting against.

4
5 Mr. Sander asked for good temperament while on the commission. Ms. Houle said she asked for the
6 same. Mr. Hill requested the mission of the Conservation Commission be respected.

7
8 Ms. Kane went through the remaining vacancies. There were two seats on the Water Commission,
9 who had recommended Bob Reap and Fran Huntoon to take those seats. Mr. Hill said that there were
10 two other interested persons, Ed Wells and Greg Tucker, but they stepped aside and the commission
11 selected Mr. Reap and Ms. Huntoon.

12
13 Mr. Sander offered a motion to appoint Bob Reap and Fran Huntoon to one-year terms on the Water
14 Commission and was seconded by Mr. May. The motion carried 4-0.

15
16 Mr. May offered a motion to appoint Jared Katz as Fence Viewer and was seconded by Mr. Sander,
17 and the motion carried 4-0.

18
19 Mr. Sander offered a motion to appoint Steve May as Civil Defense Director, and was seconded by
20 Mr. Hill and the motion carried 4-0.

21
22 Clare Rock, Town Planner, suggested some joint board development/trainings this year to improve
23 communication.

24
25 Jon Kart and Brian Carpenter were both interested in the inspector of wood, shingles and coal. Mr.
26 Sander offered a motion to appoint Brian Carpenter inspector of wood, shingles and coal and was
27 seconded by Mr. May – and the motion carried 4-0.

28
29 The Regional Planning Commission appointments would be held until the June 6th meeting.

30 31 Emergency Services Building Presentation

32
33 Taylor Yeates explained an overview of the work of the committee reviewing options and feasibility
34 on an Emergency Services Building. The committee was considering a building to house the
35 combined police, fire and rescue services. The benefits of a three-in-one building were collaboration,
36 crosstraining and economy of construction. The size of the land needed to site the building was 2-4
37 acres.

38
39 There was some questions and answer, and discussion by the Selectboard. Mr. Yeates said that a final
40 presentation to the Selectboard would happen over the Summer. The board thanked Mr. Yeates.

41 42 Public Works Specification Update

43
44 Town Planner Clare Rock presented the draft public works specifications to the Selectboard. This
45 updated the out-of-date specifications currently in use (last adopted in 2000). The update was begun
46 by former Planner Cathleen Gent, and further refined by input from Highway and Water Resources
47 personnel.

48
49 The Selectboard accepted the draft and scheduled discussion for the June 20th meeting.

Update on Creamery Redevelopment

The Manager noted that word had come through that a new purchase option agreement was signed between the new owners, the Community Senior Center, and the prospective redeveloper, Buttermilk LLC. This had resolved the immediate concern that the town's redevelopment plan was excluded and the grant from the Slums and Blight program would be invalid. The Manager was planning to attend a post-award grant meeting with the State on the 23rd.

Ms. Kane recapped the recent history of this project, including the Vermont Community Development Program grant award, Buttermilk LLC (Brendan O'Reilly) and their efforts to work with the former owner, Craig Caswell & Casing Development LLC to get the site purchased and remediated. Following the expiration in March of the purchase option, the owner pursued a sale with the Community Senior Center group, lead by Rep. Anne O'Brien. This seemingly jeopardized Buttermilk's plans and the VCDP grant. Negotiations between the Senior Center and Buttermilk continued for several weeks before an apparent impasse, which triggered a community meeting on May 11th. Following this, word was received that both parties agreed on a purchase option, putting the original proposal from Buttermilk, LLC back on track.

4. Other Business

Big Heavy World arts proposal

Steve May introduced Jim Lockridge of the Big Heavy World group, which was a music history group interested in being named a Local Arts Agency of Richmond. This would not be an exclusive relationship, but would allow Big Heavy World the chance to qualify for grants for programs that could benefit Richmond's musical and arts interests.

Mr. Lockridge provided an overview of the organization, which had been around for twenty years. They had an archive of musical history of Vermont, and a small FM radio station to air their collections. He provided an overview of how the LAA designation would help them qualify for more federal grants.

Ms. Kane asked if they could partner with the schools and library? Mr. May said that naming them a Local Arts Agency makes sense for the town and Big Heavy World. Arts was an economic driver, and lots of places in Richmond are underutilized for performances, which Big Heavy World could help with.

Ms. Kane said she wasn't sure what the Selectboard's role in the LAA would be. Mr. Lockridge said he had provided a draft resolution.

Mr. May said that the designation process seems innocuous and it is a good working group. The recreation group is dormant and the town needs a functioning arts group.

Mr. Hill was supportive but the local experience seems amorphous. The Selectboard deliberated and suggested that Mr. May facilitate a meeting to garner interest in a specific idea for the LAA to focus on.

Abandoned Building/Property Maintenance ordinance

1 The Manager explained that this issue has come up before, regarding upkeep and security of
2 abandoned buildings. Mr. Hill said that he envisioned this covering commercial and industrial
3 districts and not residential or agricultural districts (not barns or homes). This discussion was deferred
4 until June 20th.

5 6 Rezone Request: Lucky Spot

7
8 The Manager reported that an attorney for the owners of the Lucky Spot had sent a letter requesting
9 that the zone it is located in be amended to allow for residential uses. This had been referred to the
10 Planning Commission for their review and recommendations.

11 12 Reports from Selectboard and Town Manager

13
14 The Manager went through the reports. He noted two letters, one from Maureen Kangley and one
15 from Phil Cote, about Christmas Hill. Mr. Sander said he would be willing to meet with Mr. Cote on
16 the road conditions.

17 18 Approval of Minutes

19
20 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of April 29, 2016 and was seconded by Mr. May,
21 and the motion carried 4-0.

22
23 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of May 2, 2016 and was seconded by Mr. May
24 and the motion carried 4-0.

25 26 Coin Drop

27
28 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve a coin drop for the Richmond Fire Department for October 8,
29 2016 and was seconded by Mr. Hill, and the motion carried 4-0.

30 31 Amendment to Liquor Licenses

32
33 The Manager explained that the Hatchet wanted to amend its liquor license to expand its outdoor
34 premises by one foot in width. The Selectboard, acting as the Local Liquor Board, could approve this
35 application.

36
37 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the liquor license amendment for Hatchet to expand the outdoor
38 premises to 60'x30' and was seconded by Mr. May. The motion carried 4-0.

39
40 The Manager reported that he would attend a meeting regarding regional dispatch services. Right now
41 Richmond is served by the State Police dispatch for police, and Shelburne dispatch for Fire and
42 Rescue. The State would likely either begin to charge for this service or more likely, end the service.
43 Other towns are interested in regional dispatching also, which may become a reality. Richmond would
44 likely do as other towns choose, since our options were limited.

45 46 **5. Adjourn**

47 Motion by Mr. Sander to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.