

Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Josh Arneson gave an update about the Andrews Community Forest. He said that he spoke to Hannah Phillips last week regarding next steps for the permanent forest committee and budget. Josh Arneson asked the selectboard how they would like candidates for membership on the permanent board to be appointed, either approved solely by the selectboard or reviewed and recommended by the interim committee and then appointed by the selectboard. All members of the selectboard were in favor of review and recommendation by the interim committee. Bard asked that there be follow up regarding the budget for the forest. Guy Roberts mentioned the thirty thousand dollars that came through the forest creation process. Josh Arneson stated that he needed to identify where that money was being held. Guy Roberts also mentioned coming before the selectboard at their next meeting to present a grant for construction of a trail at the Andrews Community Forest. He also clarified that it is reimbursement style meaning town funds for upfront costs and reimbursement for those costs after the work is complete. Bard Hill stated that the town was familiar with that style of funding.

Josh Arneson informed the selectboard that he had received the final draft of the Richmond Stormwater Master Plan from CCRPC and Stone Environmental. He explained that the next step will be to meet with Pete Gosselin and Kendall Chamberlin to discuss implementation of infrastructure projects. Bard Hill clarified that stormwater projects are not part of the water and wastewater department, and that this is solely for coordination. Christy Witters expressed that she would like to stay involved in the progress of these projects. Bard Hill asked about budget implications for these projects. Jessica Draper said that she had been in contact with Dan Albrecht from regional planning about utilizing UPWP funds. Bard Hill explained that UPWP just opened and is a good opportunity if we have any projects ready for an application. Jessica Draper said she had been in contact with Dan and Marshall from regional planning about project ideas about what an application might look like for us. Christy Witters mentioned to be wary of instream projects that could be identified in the plan because of groundwater contribution to the problem areas. Bard Hill asked if we could go through the plan and identify projects that could work under UPWP, especially those that may involve i89 or route 2.

Josh Arneson gave an update regarding the Buttermilk LLC Creamery Redevelopment project. He provided a letter from Josie Kyle outlining their plans moving forward. He said that she was optimistic about occupancy in building 1 by this coming summer, but cleanup took longer and costed more than expected which explained the delay on finishing building 1. Discussion ensued regarding the commercial to residential ratio for the development. Bard Hill mentioned that the ratio requirement had been shifted to building 2. Mary Houle commented that the town should keep the tax benefit in mind when allowing for changes in use from commercial to residential. Bard Hill also commented that we need to keep in mind commercial availability in the village as well. Christy Witters mentioned the higher need for residential that is occurring now, but we need to decide what Richmond needs long term and what is better for the town overall. Those present agreed that successful development is better than development that sits empty or fails.

Josh Arneson gave a brief update on the status of the budget process noting that next Monday the selectboard will be having a special meeting on the highway and administration budgets. Bard Hill explained that a 2% overall increase in the budget is the goal. Josh Arneson asked if the board wanted a special meeting for the entire budget or to extend an existing meeting. The selectboard decided to have a special meeting on December 19th at 7pm.

The regional planning UPWP application was again discussed noting an application deadline of 1/18/19. Bard Hill revisited the discussion from earlier about UPWP being a good opportunity for projects with ties to state managed roads. Josh Arneson asked if the board would want input on the application prior to submittal. Bard Hill suggested deferring to Christy Witters on stormwater related projects.

Josh Arneson asked the board how they prefer to review minutes. Christy Witters said that she likes to review the meeting materials all together at once. Roger Brown said he thought it made sense to review them closer to the time they were taken. Jessica Draper suggested sending an alert out by email when they are posted by law to the website. Everyone agreed that would suffice, and members could review them when they so choose.