

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: November 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Grant match for Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Communities Grant

In late August, the Recreation Committee submitted a letter of interest to the VOREC program for a \$150,000 grant for improvements to Volunteers Green. Improvements include rehabilitating the bandshell, replacing the playground equipment, replacing furniture, and updating signage. In early October, the Recreation Committee received an invitation to submit a full grant application to the VOREC program. Full applications are due November 29<sup>th</sup>.

During the August 16, 2021 Selectboard meeting, when it discussed the VOREC Communities Grant application, the provision of a grant match was discussed but not decided upon because of a lack of information on the grant match request. A grant match is not required for this grant. However, a grant match indicates to the program that the town is ready for this project and invested in this project, per the VOREC program guidance. I have reached out to VOREC for guidance regarding typical grant matches to get a sense of expectations and have not received a response yet.

After talking to community members working on this grant application with me, it was agreed that a 20 percent match would show project readiness and investment. A 20 percent grant match would be \$30,000.

I have been in touch with the Conservation Commission and RiseVT about possible sources of funding for the grant match. This project would be eligible for Conservation Reserve Funds and RiseVT Amplify grants. These funding sources could cover about \$15,000

VOREC grant projects are executed in April 2021 and need to be completed by December 31, 2023. Thus, budgeting for the grant match could be split between FY23 and FY24.

In the end, ideally, we would like the town to give an assurance in writing that it will be able to provide a grant match for the full \$30,000, and to be able to provide \$15,000 as part of the grant match if the town is awarded the grant.

To facilitate action, I have prepared the following draft motion:

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, move to approve the provision of a \$30,000 grant match if the Town is awarded the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative Community Grant.*