

Richmond Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2022

Committee members present: Cathleen Gent (chair), Chris Cole (vice-chair), Mark Damico, Jon Kart, Allen Knowles

Others present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner), Josh Arneson (Town Manager), Peter Gosselin (Highway Foreman)

Ravi Venkataraman and Josh Arneson were present at the meeting physical location and all other participants participated remotely.

A quorum was reached and the chair convened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

1. Revisions to Agenda: There were no revisions to the agenda.

2. Meeting Minutes: December 28, 2021 minutes were moved by Kart, seconded by Cole. There were minor corrections. *The amended minutes were approved unanimously.*

3. Highway Dept. Projects and Transportation Committee Priorities

a. East Main Street Sidewalks/Curbing and FY23 Highway Projects – Gosselin reviewed the Highway Department’s proposal for restructuring of staff and new projects and discussed the additional projects to be completed with highway staff and equipment. He provided details about the East Main Street installation of new sidewalks and curbs in conjunction with the Rt. 2 project. Knowles asked about the catch basin along the south side. Gosselin said curbs will be rebuilt on both sides of Rt. 2 and water will be kept in the road, with storm water management. He discussed the curb system and widths of the roadway, parking, shoulders, and green belt and sidewalks. Gosselin said that VTrans has agreed to replace the stormwater part of the project, near Papa McKees, which is very good news. In response to a question, Gosselin said that state permits will be needed for the work the town does on Rt. 2.

In terms of the Bridge Street replacement of existing storm water system, asphalt sidewalks and curbing, Damico asked about the design of light poles and the potential for ornamental lighting. Kart asked about burying utilities along Bridge Street. Gosselin said the current work plan is to place the poles in the current locations and that the cost of burying lines is expensive, with few grants available. Gosselin said there is discussion about adding a pole at Railroad Street. Kart and Gosselin also discussed the centerline for Bridge Street, which will shift about 6 inches to the east. Kart said he would be willing to volunteer to find grants for underground lines and utilities. Damico also brought up that inconsistent illumination between fixtures is an issue. Gosselin said he would like to see better designed light fixtures and added that all the types of changes being discussed could result in a delay in the project perhaps beyond FY23. Venkataraman said he will get specs from Green Mountain Power for available light fixture options. Chris Cole agreed about the value in looking into grants. He and Gosselin reviewed the current width of Bridget Street – traffic lane and the potential for adding bike lanes. Gosselin said there is room if power poles were moved. Knowles noted that there are surface improvements laid out in the VHB report for Bridge Street, completed in June 2021. Gent said she will get Gosselin a copy of the report.

All committee members thanked Gosselin during the discussion for all the efforts that he and the Highway Department are doing to plan for and take on the replacement projects identified in the restructuring proposal, and several members noted the work will be cost-effective and will allow the existing infrastructure to be better maintained.

b. Committee priorities for future construction projects – Gent highlighted the list of scoping and planning projects currently underway and noted that they have not been prioritized. She added that it will be really helpful to get input from Gosselin and Arneson before next steps are contemplated. Gosselin agreed and

pointed out that Venkataraman keeps Arneson and him up to date during regular meetings. Gosselin and Arneson left the meeting at 6:30 PM.

4. UPWP FY23 Grant Applications

a. Review Final Applications – Gent thanked Venkataraman, Kart, and Knowles for preparing the two grant applications. She also presented numerous suggested changes to the two applications, such as changing the focus to the western Gateway area and not on the Gateway Zoning District and whether the map should have parcels outlined rather than the road themselves highlighted. Gent did not have time to provide complete comments during the meeting for the Phase 1: Official Map applications. Damico left the meeting at 7:05 PM.

b. Opportunities with CCRPC Additional Funds – Cole recapped the cost and steps to do route option analyses for Green Mountain Transit services in Richmond. He said the key is whether the Selectboard would entertain putting the service in place within the next five-year period since a local match for services would be needed. *Motion by Kart, seconded by Cole to submit a FY23 UPWP application to conduct basic research for the transportation committee regarding mass transit options, if the Selectboard will provide the grant match. Voting: In favor: Gent, Cole, Kart. Opposed: Knowles. The motion passed.* Venkataraman and Cole will prepare the grant application.

The remaining agenda items were postponed to the next meeting.

5. Adjourn – At 7:10 PM, motion to adjourn by Knowles, seconded by Cole. Approved unanimously.

-Minutes taken by Cathleen Gent