

Richmond Transportation Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2019

In attendance: Chris Cole (co-chair), Cathleen Gent (co-chair) Erik Filkorn, Jon Kart
Others: Bard Hill, Ian Stokes, Rosy Metcalfe, Alexis Lathem

Co-chairs Cole and Gent opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. Since this is the first meeting of the new transportation committee, members of the committee introduced themselves and discussed reasons why each wanted to serve on the committee. Guests also introduced themselves and discussed numerous transportation issues and topics. Bard Hill delivered a list of transportation challenges, objectives, and possible actions that he and Selectboard members put together, along with business cards from people who are interested in some type of local shuttle. He indicated the Selectboard is very engaged in moving forward a variety of transportation projects. Ian Stokes and Alexis Lathem are with the Richmond Action Committee and Rosie Metcalf is with RiseVT, and her role is to help Huntington, Richmond, and other communities develop transportation plans and find resources to implement projects.

Bard Hill left after the introductions and requested that Transportation Committee update the Selectboard as work gets underway.

Committee Goals – The committee discussed goals:

1. Use a process that involves participation from a variety of stakeholders and community members;
2. Develop a town transportation plan encompassing a number of topics – with concrete project elements to price out and/or scope and ultimately construct with funding support from the town, state and federal governments.
3. Ensure that projects support the town plan and the regional plan and address environmental impacts, estimated expenses.

Priorities – Committee members and meeting participants brainstormed a list of transportation related priorities or issues for Richmond. The committee will discuss the list again at the next meeting, add new items, put items in cohesive categories and begin to prioritize.

1. Creamery parcel – vehicular access, pedestrian access on the east side of Bridge Street, ways to include alternative transportation approaches, gain a better understanding of the traffic flows at the Railroad Street, Bridge Street, Jolina Court intersection
2. Safe way to transport people (pedestrians and bicyclists) from the village and from Riverview Commons to the park and ride
3. Reduce reliance on commuting via cars with single occupant
4. Establish ride sharing – both east and west on Route 2 – hailing and sharing
 - a. Consider Hitching Post
5. Locate or designate a municipal park and ride in village area
6. Route 2 paving projects – revisit sidewalks in village area (East Main) and wider shoulders on entire length of paving (east and west of village)
7. Address traffic issues
 - a. AM/PM peaks
 - b. AM – consider investing in more school vehicles to reduce the length of time students are in buses; open school a half hour later; work with the school district
8. Local bus or shuttle service

- a. Williston to Waterbury
- b. Bolton Valley – one year pilot for employees
- c. SSTA – for Medicaid trips and ADA transportation – are there other options?
- 9. Expand/improve village sidewalks
- 10. At park and ride – create bicycle friendly location – bike locker and EV charging station
- 11. Shuttle – village to park and ride
- 12. Reduce carbon footprint – public transit, bike paths, sidewalks, infrastructure for electric vehicles and bikes (EV charging stations)
- 13. Improve safety in a variety of transportation modes
- 14. Epidemiological
- 15. Economic
- 16. Equity

Attend Selectboard meeting on November 4 – Transportation Committee members decided it is too early to report to the Selectboard on progress by November 4.

Regular meeting times: The committee will meet regularly on the first Thursday of each month from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM and on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:30 PM to 7 PM.

Next Steps for the committee:

- 1. To develop a knowledge base related to existing information, including plans, any traffic studies, and proposals developed to date – Cathleen will send out reports and background information.
- 2. By next meeting - Prepare a draft priority list for public review.
 - a. Send any additional priorities to Cathleen Gent via email before the next meeting.
 - b. Identify any elements that can be implemented quickly – short term – to get some momentum as well as longer-term elements
- 3. Engage members of the Richmond community who are interested in particular transportation issues/solutions
 - a. Seek out people to participate in sub-committees via Front Porch Forum and possibly a survey
- 4. Reach out to the Peter Gosselin and Kendall Chamberlin to communicate with the highway department and water resources department throughout the committee’s process to ensure that our planning is in synch with those two departments.
- 5. Invite VTrans staff to discuss new Go Vermont new app that is being launched for carpooling coordination

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Meeting minutes were taken by Cathleen Gent