**Richmond Transportation Committee**Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2020

All participants attended the meeting remotely.
Committee members: Cathleen Gent (chair), Jon Kart, Erik Filkorn, Chris Cole, Mark Damico, James Floyd, Allen Knowles

Cathleen Gent opened the meeting at 5:33PM

Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2020 Minutes moved by Cole, Seconded by Filkorn. Approved unanimously. No abstentions.

**Welcome New Members**

Cathleen welcomed our three new members and noted that the committee membership has been expanded to seven per the Selectboard. The chair noted that we generally follow Roberts Rules and are subject to the open meeting law and public records. She went on to explain her general interpretation of what those things mean, the limits of email, what constitutes a quorum, etc. All actions must be codified in a meeting. No doing business on your own. Save your emails.

The new and existing committee members and Ravi gave brief biographical sketches to help familiarize the new members.

**UPWP Projects**

For the benefit of the new members, Ravi gave an overview of the Bridge Street Study and the Bike/Ped Master Plan.

Chris relayed that some of the neighbors of East Main Street were present at the Planning Commission meeting last night. It is important to balance the perception of safety versus density. Equity is a key component of anything we do and the town should consider developing an explicit policy to promote it.

VHB is putting together a local concerns meeting for December 10th at 7PM for the Bridge Street project.

Chris explained how the study process will work for the benefit of the new members.

Cathleen mentioned that we are in line for a $1500 grant from Rise Vermont to help defray local match on the UPWP projects. Committee members are encouraged to assist in the writing of the grant application. Allen Knowles volunteered to assist Ravi.

Mark asked if streetscape design would be included in the Bridge Street plan. Chris indicated that it would be part of the project along with stormwater, lighting, etc.

Jon briefly related how he had approached a business owner who expressed concerns about insufficient parking, etc. The general feeling among business leaders has been that the Town is not sufficiently responsive to business needs for parking downtown based on prior meetings.

Ravi and Chris expressed that we should encourage business interests to attend the December 10 local concerns meeting and if further engagement is required, we should schedule additional time with them. It is critical that they be allowed to express their concerns thoroughly. Jon went on to offer more detail on some of the concerns around employee parking that were expressed.

The steering committee for the bike/ped study is meeting on November 12. First meeting will be a review of the draft scope, etc.

Next round UPWP applications are due the third week in January. It’s time to seek conceptual approval from the Selectboard. Chris recommended applying for the balance of the bike/ped plan but we should also review the original list at our next meeting (the Implementation Plan should be the starting point).

Chris suggested that Ravi reach out to CCRPC to see how much more we might need to finish the bike/ped plan and if any remaining funds might be able to be used to scope individual options presented in the completed plan.

We currently have $16,000 in the draft budget for the UPWP projects and $10,000 set aside in the Highway Budget for sidewalks. Selectboard budget meeting is on Monday.

**Route 2 Resurfacing/Route 2 Bridge over I-89**

The new bridge on Rt. 2 over I-89 and references 6’ shoulders in response to the primary bike corridor designation. Residents on Main Street are pushing back on the shoulder width along their section. The Selectboard will be meeting with the project team to better understand what the constraints along the corridor, feasibility of a new signal at the Bridge Street intersection, access to the park and ride, etc.

Chris suggested Ravi confirm that the town has signed off on ROW, etc.

Motion to adjourn by Cole seconded by Floyd. Meeting adjourned at 7:38PM

Next meeting is November 19.

-Erik Filkorn