Town of Richmond
Parking Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday February 22, 2021 6:00 PM

Members (all present):
Cara LaBounty
Diane Mariano
JC (John) Cohn
Lou Borie
John Rankin

Others Present:
Jim Cochran

6:01 PM   **Welcome and Public Comment (recording started) - none**

6:01 PM   **1. Review & Approve Minutes – 1/13/2021, 1/25/2021, and 2/8/2021**
minutes complete and approved

6:20 PM   **2. Open Discussion Cochran's Ski Area Parking**

Jim Cochran informed us on a bit of the history about Cochran's Ski Area and how it has evolved into a bike haven. This included talking about the other trail systems, very much as Willie Lee did last meeting. Jim was part of the force trying to get bikers out of the Round Church parking area and move them to Cochran's parking lot.

Jim mentioned that Cochran's is a non-profit and wants to help the community out. He did say that parking has become quite crowded. Generally, families come during 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and the biggest crowd of mountain bikers come after work. Jim said that the majority of cars parking there are bicyclists, at maybe a ratio of 20:1 with river parking. He mentioned that this parking surge has been frustrating for family members who live on that hill.

Cochran's Ski Area parking expansion is difficult with Act 250 and storm water issues. They are unsure as to where and how to create more parking. He thought perhaps creating diagram parking might be a good idea for better parking space usage.

Possible short-term parking was suggested down by the sugar house, as a roped off grassy area. Jim thought that was a good idea and was going to talk with the board about that suggestion. Jim also would like to loop in the rest of his family members for future discussions. He will be giving us that information.

For many of us, we see the river as being the main draw for our town, however biking seems to be a bigger draw, with a longer season, within Richmond.

6:10 PM   **3. Action Plan-Update**
6:50 PM   We began discussion with Railroad ROW from 6:10-6:20 and then returned at 6:50.

Railroad ROW

JC showed a map for the proposed parking area. This particular area is across from the Jonesville Post Office, bounded by the motorcycle shop parking area and the route 2/Cochran-Stage roads intersection. This area includes both the Railroad ROW and Route 2 VTRANS ROW. JC asked for guidance as to how to go forward.

It was decided for JC to get a bit more procedural information from Jim Fountain, Canadian National Railroad (CNR) real-estate, and then talk with Josh Arneson, Richmond Town Manager. It might also be helpful for JC to talk with Dan Noyes, Richmond Home Supply, for additional perspective.

Cara had a conversation with the owner of Bee There Towing and they are pleased that this area could eventually be used for parking. They generally use it during the winter months.

Incentive Conversation – discussion put off for another time

VTRANS – Rt 2 (Bullpen) & River Access

Lou will continue to reach out to Jeff Blanchard (VTRANS) and Doug Keller about the possible 11-11 permit for the Bullpen area.

VTRANS - Johnny Brook State Land & River Access

John Rankin said that there is a scramble to the river, possible for some however if it were possible to improve this, it would help.

Lou said Jeff Blanchard did not think that creating this area into a parking lot was something the State of Vermont was interested in doing. Many PAC members felt that this was an area worth pursuing. Lou will clear up exactly what the State means by creating a parking area. Would it be okay to create a curb cut and just let cars be parked on the grass?

Lou found out more details about the State's Park & Ride Program and confirmed this is not in the PAC's purview. We are not charged with looking for more commuter parking.

Cara will ask Pete Gosling about the possibility of having parking across from the state land (the other side of Johnny Brook), just in front of the cliffs.

Richmond Land Trust (RLT) Follow-up

Diane and Cara sent a letter, via Gary Bressor, asking three questions:

1. Is it possible, once again, to gain a temporary parking arrangement for the Bombardier field, similar to what was done last summer?

2. Is it possible to extend the Beeken Rivershore Canoe Access parking area, beyond the boundaries that are now there?

3. Do you all see any possible additional parking options as Dugway road gets repaired near the gorge this summer?

Lou will follow-up with them to see what has been decided.

Lou also mentioned that the Dugway Road Huntington Gorge construction was beginning soon and will be done by spring.

Other areas for fact-finding

John Rankin added information from Strava to One Note. This included a snapshot of usage.

Lou was going to look at the trails map and update his map.

Robbin's Mountain Parking

JC thought this was already an existing parking lot that was underutilized and perhaps needed some trails work

Duck Brook Trail (Long Trail auxiliary trail)

This long-time existing trail off of Stage Road has no parking.

Round Church

Cara talked with Fran Thomas about Round Church allocated parking spaces. Discussion about how to let this historic site have allocated parking and how to let other's park there without penalty.

Village Volunteer's Green

Diane brought up the letter from Jack Linn about the haphazard Volunteer's Green parking. Cara asked Lou about his process for creating the Bombardier Meadow parking map.

Behind Quinn's Store (2nd store location)

Looking into other parking options that also are in the Railroad ROW.
Lou & JC will talk about other locations.

Agenda Item's for 3/8/2021 meeting

Cara will ask Pete Gosling about what it would take to fill in the area from the Jonesville Bridge to the curve, in the Jonesville end of Cochran Road. And she will ask about the Johnny Brook cliff side parking.

Lou will update the maps to reflect the trails parking areas. And he will follow up with the Bullpen and Johnny Brook state land possible parking.

JC will follow up with Railroad ROW work and work with Lou on other possible parcels.

7:59 PM   **Adjourn** JC - motion to adjourn, Lou 2nd, all aye