

Furr moved to appoint Bard Hill as Selectboard Vice Chair. Forward seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Miller, Sander in favor. Hill abstains. Motion approved.

Sander moved to appoint Duncan Wardwell as Selectboard Secretary. Forward seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Hill moved to designate the Burlington Free Press, Times Ink!, Williston Observer, and Seven Days as the official newspapers of Richmond. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of appointment of a Delinquent Tax Collector

Furr: Laurie Brisbin has served in this roll since 2011. Prior to 2021 she was not re-appointed every year and she had served in the role since her appointment in 2011. We overlook this in 2022 but we need to make sure that it's done each year going forward. Laurie has provided a letter of interest and chart of delinquent taxes paid in FY22 which is in the packet. She's unable to meet on Monday evenings but if we would like to bring up that list of delinquent taxes for public questions and comment.

Arneson: This is a look at what has been collected during FY22 (https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/03/3c_Delinquent_Tax_Collector_Reappointment_March_2023__2_.pdf)

Hill moved to appoint Laurie Brisbin as Delinquent Tax Collector for a term ending on Town Meeting Day 2024. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Furr: Do we have any objection to moving item h to the next item on the agenda?

Rosovsky: That is fine with me.

Consideration of installing a ladder on the town owned parcel containing the Overrockers parking area to aid people in exiting the Winooski River

Brownlee: My name is Steven Brownlee, owner of UMIAK Outfitters here in Richmond. We're looking to provide a safe way for folks getting up into Overrocker Park. It's safer for people to get up and down the bank and minimizes erosion that happens on the bank. These steps were given permission last year by the Town. Now we're looking to get the Selectboard's permission as well as official permit. There is an illustration of the actual steps. These are steps that are utilizing a construction process that is well used throughout Vermont and New England.

Furr: Our current Zoning officer believes this needs to go through Conditional Use review. Do we want this ladder to be installed? If yes, then we would need to set up a Conditional Use review. We would then need to set up a contract with UMIAK, as recommended by our insurance, that you will maintain the ladder and assume all liability.

Hill: As somebody who's been to this part of the riverbank it's really silt. It's part of the historical floodplain where the rivers want to move back and forth. The image is good but it doesn't capture the actual site. I wanted to see if Judy or the Conservation Commission have any comments about where this sits on the riverbank in that area.

Brownlee: Last summer, it was much safer situation. One thing I will also point out is where we have located it on a river it's the least turbulent area for any erosion that could happen from flooding on the river. It's a very protected area. It would come in and out every season: we put it in the beginning of the season, we took it out at the end of our season. We rent space here in Richmond from the middle of May until the middle of September. We basically run these in June and July and August. There tends to be more traffic going from Bolton dam down to Richmond. I have not seen many canoers or kayakers using this access points because there are better access points. Tubers like this section of the river because it has some flow until we get further downstream.

Rosovsky: I believe our friends at UMIAK are being quite responsible about this and I appreciate their efforts to curb erosion and make access or exits easier. This is also the kind of thing that if you needed financial assistance, the Conservation Reserve Fund is open to all that benefit the Town.

LaBounty: I appreciate that, but I really want us to be cautious of commercial entities with Conservation Funds. It might be a great time to have the discussion since you have UMIAK owner and manager here to see about the possibility of not launching their rafters from the Bombardier Field parking lot or dropping them off right on Cochran Rd. It is a huge issue with parking along Cochran Rd. and people getting out of the UMIAK van while others are passing along the side. I think it's a perfect opportunity to negotiate something.

Brownlee: We certainly are open to other launch sites. We've met with the Town of Bolton a couple of weeks ago. We're working with the State of Vermont Parks and Rec. We're fully aware that Bombardier Park is a bit of a hot spot from a parking stamp. We have also spoken to Green Mountain Power about the dam. The challenge that you have in that section of river is that not all the clients want to do the severity of the rapids that can happen. There's a safety issue there. It takes all day to float from the dam all the way down to Richmond.

Forward: Parking and traffic on Cochran Rd. is a very popular topic to us. What will be your process of deciding on any future launch site.

Brownlee: We have discussions with the appropriate folks. We've been working on it for months, if we don't have it resolved before floating season, we probably are not going to be coming back to Richmond. And so that's another reason for being in here.

Furr: Are we okay with the ladder?

LaBounty: I strongly recommend that the Selectboard hold off on making decisions because we already know that there's been a parking issue with Cochran Rd. If they don't have another solution for their launch area, and it's still Bombardier Field and no agreements been made with the Land Trust then you have really created a cluster. I'm just saying please "have your ducks in order."

Furr: The first question is do we want to approve installation of the ladder?

Arneson: If the board wants to have a ladder there, we need to go to Conditional Use review, which is going to take some number of weeks to complete. Tyler, our Zoning Administrative officer is here.

Machia: They wouldn't be able to make the April DRB, the deadline for that is going to be the 24th. The Conditional Use process is going to take a month to a month and a half. Any decision the DRB makes has a 45-day appeal period. I need about 19 days advance notice to get everything on the agenda, because I have to warn the meeting 15 days in advance, I have to prepare my staff notes. We could be looking at mid-June. The good news, once it's done they can seasonally take it in and take it out every year without having to come back and get a new permit.

Arneson: One suggestion might be to proceed with the Conditional Use application and have UMIAK come back if more than to answer that question. Just because it's approved doesn't mean you have to install the ladder. Because it's Town land, we would need a motion to go through the Conditional Use approval. If in the future you determined we don't want the ladder in there, you just say we're not putting it in. If approved to Conditional Use then you could have them come back to us to actually install the ladder.

Barnard: We have a lot of families in our Town that wouldn't be able to afford what you do for other people in the State of Vermont. Would you be willing to possibly do a pass where a family can take that pass out for a day to use your services?

Brownlee: We would certainly entertain something like that, it would probably be a scholarship. We think that we're really helping the community by providing the shuttle. There was already an existing parking issue.

Hill: This method of accessing the river is not restricted to customers. People have difficulty getting up and down from the river. It's there for use other than UMIAK customers.

LaBounty: I think the Town has to give permission on a yearly basis not get a permit. You have to have some recourse to be able to make sure they're doing business properly. Just because it's Town property, they're still going to make money off of it, so the fee should not be waived for the permit.

Forward: I see these as two different issues. I'd like to act on the ladder and schedule a time, maybe a month or two for you to come back after you had discussions with other Towns. I think that the conditions we are talking about can be worked out in the contract negotiation.

Arneson: Typically, if the Town is applying for a permit, the Town doesn't also pay the fee for it. If this was their land, once they had Conditional Use, they would have the ability to put the ladder in. The board has authority to put a ladder in and then not put the ladder in.

Forward moved to approve to proceed with a Conditional Use permit for a ladder on Town owned land by UMIAK at Overackers Park. Miller seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.