

## **Richmond Parking Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting**

Monday May 8, 2023, 6:00 PM

Richmond Town Center Meeting Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – 203 Bridge Street, Richmond, VT

Hybrid Meeting – In-person Meeting with Zoom Option

Attending: John Rankin, Diane Mariano, Chuck Gilroy, John Cohn

Visitors: Lisa Miller, Jim Feinson

6:00 PM Welcome & Public Comment

6:05 PM Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Suggestion to re-order to put RLT items when Jim Feinson's is available

6:10 PM Discussion regarding PAC presenting to the Richmond Selectboard before committee members terms expire.

- Lisa Miller - discussed meeting with the Selectboard to talk about parking issues
- Discussed the possibility of a regular 'stand-up' where all committees do a very short (90 sec) readout on what they are doing, and what blockers they are facing
- Rankin suggests that we may need to discuss how we do this if we no longer have a quorum due to change of members
- Diane brought up the press release and will talk with Josh about details
- Diane suggests that the day after tomorrow (after special meeting on 5/9) she will write a request to Josh about creating a press release about parking changes
- Diane also mentions that it would be good to rope Bombardier one more year to reinforce the signs. She will ask Josh.
- John R brought up that the ropes may need to be modified based on RLT decisions

6:22 PM Review of conversations with RLT regarding additional parking for Gillette Pond and next steps

- John R. discussion about parking at Gillette Pond. Looks like there's no room on the left on the Jon Low's land for parking. Should we go back to Josh/SB on the possibility of building parking on Bob Low's land as he has offered
- Chuck related that Pete doesn't like that people will need to cross the road, and the extra width makes plowing harder. Pete also asked if some of the excavation for the dam could be used for fill across the road.
- Chuck asked if dam work was out to bid, Jim said no.
- Diane suggests that we bring Pete back in to talk to the Selectboard on the topic of fill and plowing. RLT currently plows Willis Hill and Beeken Canoe Access. PAC to bring this up
- Chuck will talk to Pete about possibility of using Bob Low's offer and the potential for using fill from the construction
- Chuck reached out to Girl Scouts. They were open to event-based rental. No money was discussed, but they want the Scouts to have an opportunity to help with the event. They are not open to regular use.

6:50 PM (6:33) Discussion of Beeken Canoe access changes with RLT

- Diane asked about the parking lot.

- Jim said they will keep both the old and new lots. They won't close the old lot unit the new lot has some improvements (ropes. fill. 'hardening'). Schedule is TBD and they are looking for grant funding.
- Jim said there are some grants available for flood plain and Rivershore work that maybe used for trail work.
- John C asked if same grants could be used to help improve Overocker Park access. Jim suggested we reach out to Keith Ob.
- Jim mentioned benches down along the river were supported by grants to help Gary Beckwith's project.
- Chuck mentioned applying Eagle Scout projects. Discussed the possibility of build a list of projects.

6:45 PM East Cochran Road parking changes. RLT decisions and Pete's thoughts.

- John R brought up questions about the ADA parking.
- John R discussed conversation with Pete about improving existing Cochran Road parking. Pete says it's a bigger job.
- Jim F said the Bombardier Meadow plans new reduced parking, closer to the river and a planned turn around.
- Diane asked if 3-4 regular parking would be included and Jim stated RLT does not have the desire for that
- Jim suggested that out of season those spaces might have other use.
- John C asked about the discussion in RLT about the impact of not providing parking.
- Jim explained the discussion in RLT was that they did not feel like they are in the parking business. RLT wants to keep to the original intent of focusing on preservation
- Diane asked about timetable of parking
- Jim suggests they will be ready by the beginning of the season. Intent is to open Beeken also in May.
- John R reminded Jim that RLT had mentioned being open Memorial Day to Labor Day. Jim said they can be flexible about those dates. Jim said the parking might be open all year, but not plowed.
- Chuck asked about trail improvement to support the ADA. Jim said yes. they will put in gravel to improve the path and ADA access to river.
- Jim mentioned Issac Bissel is the stewardship lead of VHCB and they are advocating strongly to get Bombardier Meadow back to intended use.
- Discussion to wait and see how the season goes.
- Pete is a gem - all present agree 😊
- Diane asked if Umiak plans to drop off there? Jim has not heard from Umiak. Umiak has offered a steward if they could park their trailer there. RLT declined. Jim to reach out to them.
- Jim mentioned Vermont River Conservancy who was offering stewards for going to be at Bolton Pot Holes,. Huntington Gorge triple buckets. Jim offered to speak with VRC about Bombardier.
- John C RLT should be involved in discussion about press release
- John C brought up the long term goal of a Town Recreation Plan setting recreation capacity goals and stewardship. Diane, Chuck, and Lisa weighed in

7:09 PM Review meeting with VTrans at Checkered House Bridge parking area.

- Chuck updated PAC on VTRAN input. Essentially the needs to be protected and parked cars need to be away from guardrail.
- Chuck discussed open and close dates. Suggesting May 15 - Nov 1. PAC needs to decide. Need to run by Kevin then get back to Vtrans. Had discussed Nov 15. Kevin

suggested Nov 1. Chuck, we don't have quite 6-foot clearance from guard rail and we may need additional ropes. Discussed not mowing the closer section. Chuck will discuss with Pete.

- Chuck asked when do mountain bike trails close. Need to check with Trails Committee.
- John R points out that Chamberlain Hill is on private land, and we may need to check with landholder. Chuck to check with Kevin
- John C to reach out to Willy on trail improvements at Overocker Park.
- John R discussed the complications with re-routing trail due to Jon Karts mention of moving trail

7:20 PM Review of meeting with Pete and new signs.

- Diane expressed being impressed with Chucks signs and was Pete very thankful
- Chuck mentions Andy Squires questions.
- Chuck discussed the change in ordinance signs
- Diane discussed Pete's plans on the signs on E Cochran and Dugway. Suggests we need ropes on Bombardier Road.
- Chuck mentions that some signs from Dugway Road could be reused
- We discussed making one of us available when Pete is placing signs. Chuck to reach out to Pete to see if he needs help on 'sign day'
- Chuck mentioned Pete will bring in some gravel to Edmunds Bridge parking before painting.

7:30 PM Future of PAC. New members? Restructuring of the group?

- John R asks about John and Diane's plans.
- Diane described discussion with Josh. His suggestion was we just sign up again and then leave early once we get more people on-board.
- Diane discussed her and John C's revised plan to stay on PAC and leave early (if possible) when the results of the experiments on Dugway, and E Cochran are clearer. John C added that we should still actively work to expand our members
- Chuck mentioned Matt Buckley's interest in joining PAC and all in favor of that.
- Lisa wondered if we could intentionally stagger terms so that we don't have major board departures
- We discussed how we could expand the board, based on location, skills.

7:45 PM Approval of 4/24/2023 minutes

- Motion was called and approved

7:50 PM Agenda for the next meeting

- Diane will feed back if press release and ropes should be on next SB meeting agenda
- Discussed different ways of making agenda such as a 'boiler plate' vs specific agenda per meeting. General feeling is early discussion on agenda is helpful.
- We discussed the Richmond Police situation. There's a special meeting of the SB to discuss this week. Lisa suggests we reach out to Josh to explain policing needs.

8:03 PM Adjourn