

EMAIL REQUEST

Hi,

I am sending this email to a list of Richmond business owners' emails that we have at the Town Office.

I am reaching out today regarding parking on the upper block of Bridge St. This includes on-street parking as well as parking in the municipal lot between Greensea and The Big Spruce. The parking in this area is 2 hour parking but there have been concerns of vehicles exceeding that time limit. While increased parking enforcement may be part of the solution, the Richmond Police Department does not have enough staff to provide daily parking enforcement.

The Selectboard would like your thoughts on other ways to encourage vehicles to park for no more than the allotted two-hour timeframe. This will be a discussion topic at the July 5 Selectboard meeting. Please email thoughts on this topic to dwardwell@richmondvt.gov by June 29 and we will include these comments for the Selectboard. Also, please join the discussion at the July 5 Selectboard meeting.

Thank you,

Duncan

6/24/2022

Gary Beckwith

Solar Bus

garyb@solarbus.org

im not sure i have a stake in this but my two cents.... up the limit to 3 or 4 hours....?

6/26/2022

Rod West

Blackfork Towing

west@gmavt.net

Duncan,

You didn't explain fully the actual problem (or complaints), but I believe that the solution should lie in a consensus among the business owners and residents of the area. By getting all the parties/direct stakeholders together, they should self determine a course of action/education that the Town can then support. Oh, and I hope it won't involve towing!

Thanks,

Rod West

P.S. If the business community wants to fund the Constable, or another civilian, at an hourly rate to write parking tickets, that's fine, but please don't involve the police.

P.P.S. I would support Town government providing educational cards or flyers (best if they look like tickets) for business owners to put on windshields of offending vehicles. Be sure to include a space for time and date of notice, and perhaps a tear off for the ticket placer to record place, date, time, vehicle description, and plate number, to drop off at the town center, so repeaters can be tracked.

6/27/2022

David Sunshine

Hoff Law Firm

david@vtsunlaw.com

Duncan

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the parking outside of my office on Bridge St and other parts of the Village.

I am probably the longest running consistent business person in this area. I have seen over the 40 years that I have operated my office many different ways in which the parking was enforced or not enforced.

From my viewpoint, the biggest problem is having and establishing time limits on parking and then not enforcing them.

Many years, there was little enforcement, and then one day tickets were issued with no warning. This greatly upset many.

I understand that enforcement of the parking regulation is a low priority for the police and it should be. An understaffed police force has more important tasks in town pertaining to the safety of the citizens of Richmond.

However, parking is an important issue.

I suggest that instead of having the police enforce on a very irregular basis the two hour limit, that we ask the business owners in Town to counsel and inform their customers of the two hour parking limit.

For many businesses such as the hair salon, the food shelf and others, the customer has often completed their business within the two hour limit. Even the customers of the food purveyors, have often finished within two hours.

I believe that an educational approach rather than an enforcement approach would be more beneficial and successful, especially an enforcement approach that is irregular and unevenly applied.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this matter.

David Sunshine

6/28/2022

Gabe Firman

Hatchet/Big Spruce

gabriel.firman@icloud.com

Hi Duncan,

Checking in re your email. It was odd that I was not a recipient but fortunately someone forwarded it to me. It's extra odd as I'm one of the only upper block business owners that has asked Josh and Kyle on multiple occasions to address the issue of "2 hour" parking.

I wanted to make sure you were aware that every upper block business owner and Josh and the previous chief have had discussions regarding this issue prior to the pandemic. At that time several solutions were proposed and agreed upon but never materialized.

I'm glad you are picking up this topic. I will not be in attendance as I'm away but look forward to hearing what comes of it. My email here is the best one to use for contact. Please use it for future correspondence.

6/30/2022

Maria

Hey June

greetings@heyjunevt.com

Hey Duncan:

Thanks so much for this email and to the Selectboard for taking on this topic. I'm going to try to attend the July 5 meeting, but in case I am unable to make it, I wanted to send my thoughts. I've thought a lot about this topic and it's definitely a tricky one. One of the most obvious ways of raising awareness of the time limits is to put up signs, which we have! in addition to the signage on the buildings and on posts, perhaps we could paint each spot with its respective time limit - 2 hours, 15 minutes for Food Shelf (this seems most practical on the Bridge Street spots than in the municipal lot).

The next most straightforward is to enforce the time limits (I've gotten little flyers on my windshield saying that I've parked too long in a 15 minute spot -- not sure who did that!), but I understand the resource draw that presents to town officials that have much more important things to do.

Based on my observations, the biggest offenders are employees of local businesses (including, at times, myself!) For those of us that don't have parking behind our buildings, the easiest and safest thing to do is to park in the Greensea Lot, along Bridge Street, or, most recently, in the bank lot. If we could form a local group or distribution list - "Bridge Street Business Alliance" or something to that effect - that we can use to discuss things as a group to ensure we're being as supportive of each others' businesses as possible, that might help? (This would be different from the old RABA / Western Slopes which are much broader in reach and I'm not even sure if they exist anymore?)

In particular, I feel office-based businesses should be especially mindful of the retail business that rely on in-and-out customers who will keep driving (thus losing us business) if the spots are full of cars. Far too often, office-based staff on the block will park right in front of my shop from 9am - 4 or 4:30pm and it's frustrating because they're not contributing to our businesses, but rather potentially impeding it. To the extent that I can, I walk to work or get dropped off. If that's not possible, I park in the Depot Street lot where there are no limits on spots.

I'm interested in hearing what ideas have been discussed prior to Hey June's existence and other ideas other businesses, building owners and town officials may have.

Thanks again for the opportunity to weigh in!

Maria