

Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2022

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Jeff Forward, June Heston

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner; Kyle Kapitanski, Police Chief; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Superintendent; Lisa Truchon, Lister

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Alexis Lathem, Allen Knowles, Ann Naumann, Ashley Farr, Bonniy Steuer, Cara LaBounty, Cathleen Gent, Connie Van Eeghen, Cristalee McSweeney, Erik Alling, Erin Farr, Erin Wagg, Gretchen Paulsen, Hillary Holmes, Ian Bender, Jason Charest, John Linn, Lauck Parke, Mary Houle, Samuel Waters, Stephanie Seguino, Wafic Faour, Wright Preston

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by: Heston

Public Comment:

Houle: When the Land Trust asks for monetary contributions to a project then we need to consider the issues of parking first (like at Bombardier field). Please do not provide money where there is no access for parking. Where does the pay for the Fire Department come into concern? Please think about paying the Fire Department properly.

Parent: The Celebrate Richmond Vermont is working on 4th of July Celebration and have currently gathered \$5,000. We will have a Welcome Tent on July 4th, we need a few people to help attend the Welcome Tent for an hour or so.

LaBounty: The mowing of the Town Center does not look like it has been mowed very well. The weeds are knee high. The mowing company needs to move some sticks. We need to address the weed whacking and grounds landscaping.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Consideration of approving corrections to the Compensation Study

Furr moved to accept the correct version of the compensation study which correctly states that a Heavy Equipment Operator will receive a three step increase once they obtain their CDL. Forward seconded.

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

Consideration of making appointments to Town committees and Offices

Sander moved to appoint Andy Squires to a one year term as the Animal Control Officer. Furr seconded.

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

Forward moved to appoint Kit Emery to a four year term on the Conservation Commission. Furr seconded.

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

Sander moved to appoint Sarah Heim and Mark Hall each to two year terms on the Housing Committee. Furr seconded.

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

Furr moved to appoint Ravi Venkataraman as the alternate representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Sander seconded.

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

Sander moved to appoint Laurie Brisbin as Delinquent Tax Collector for a one year term. Forward seconded.

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

Consideration of approving a coin drop for the Richmond Fourth of July event

Heston: The coin drop policy is in your packet. Since the Richmond Fireworks Committee is not organizing the events this year, we would provide an exception for the non-profit Celebrate Richmond Vermont Inc to hold a coin drop.

Forward moved to approve the Celebrate Richmond Vermont Inc to hold a coin drop at the intersection of Bridge St. and Rt. 2 on Saturday, June 11 to raise funds for the Fourth of July event in Richmond. Furr seconded.

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

Consideration of approving road closures for the Round Church Women's Run to be held on July 23, 2022

Holmes: There are no changes from the last few years. It is just a 5K this year. I will ask Chief Kapitanski if police can help support us. We ask for Farr Rd and Thompson Rd to be closed from 8 – 10 am. We ask to close Cochran Rd in the eastbound direction only.

Kapitanski: We will be able to staff that. You had Officer Armstrong last year and I suspect she is willing to do so again.

Furr moved to approve the closure of Farr Rd., Thompson Rd. and the eastbound lane of Cochran Rd. on Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Forward seconded. Roll Call Vote follows discussion.

Holmes: There have been about 120 – 150 participants. The participants range in ages from 83-7. The Green Mountain Athletic Association (GMAA) provides many volunteers for the parking area and support along the course. We have a fundraising goal of a percent of the registration. We have as many as 200 women running for our event.

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

Consideration of approving participation in the FY23 Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program

Arneson: Each Town is mandated for stormwater work on our roads. This work has to be done regardless of the grant money. Last year, we received \$18,000 and anticipate around \$33,500 with a 20% match. Tonight, we can approve the letter of intent. At a later date, we will decide which segments need work.

Forward moved to approve participation in the FY23 Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program and to name Selectboard Chair June Heston as the Duly Authorized Representative to sign the letter of intent. Furr seconded.

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

Consideration of approving Access Permit AC2022-0001 for access off Hinesburg Rd.

Heston: This is for a future family home.

Arneson: Pete Gosselin looks at the codes to determine access sightlines. Pete approves of this permit.

Sander moved to approve access permit AC2022-0001 for an access off Hinesburg Rd. Furr seconded.

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

Consideration of approving Access Permit AC2022-0002 for access off Dugway Rd.

Heston: This is to move current driveway 30 feet and is approved by Pete Gosselin.

Furr moved to approve access permit AC2022-0002 for an access off Dugway Rd. Sander seconded.

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

Consideration of approving the fraud risk list

Heston: There is a motion to approve the Fraud Risk List.

Arneson: Each Department Head is asked to look at ways people may fraud the Town and pocket the money. These are ways to prevent this from happening. We update this every year to identify potential threats.

Heston: In Highway, is there a way of tracking who is using what fuel?

Arneson: I will investigate that.

Heston: Is there any accountability for the misuse of vehicles or heavy equipment?

Arneson: We can come back to the next meeting to discuss possible solutions.

Furr: A PIN based system would make a lot of sense.

Heston: We will vote on this at a future meeting after we receive more information.

Furr: Do we really have “Funds for informants”?

Kapitanski: We have not done that in quite some time. There are times when we might need some buy money for a drug task force. We have not used it since I have been in Richmond. The cash is secured in bank bag in a secure file cabinet. The money is serialized and tracked.

LaBounty: Any Department that has vehicles, heavy equipment, or petty cash should be listed consistently as with Highway and Police.

Consideration of waiving the permit fee for temporary parking lots at Bombardier and Beeken meadows

Heston: This addresses a need for more recreational parking. The fees are currently \$65 per permit or a total of \$130.

LaBounty: Why do we have a required permit for parking on mowed grass? Why are we issuing a permit? I do not find anything in our regulations that require it. It is temporary parking on mowed grass.

Arneson: It is due to the length of time (45-90 days) and the stakes in the ground that pertain to having a permit.

LaBounty: No such thing is defined as a temporary parking permit.

Wright: I like the approach of approving it just in case it is needed.

*Forward moved to waive \$130 in permit fees for the Richmond Land Trust for temporary parking areas at the Bombardier Meadow and the Beeken Meadow. Furr seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Heston, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

Consideration of delegating the responsibility to install and remove the Black Lives Matter flag and sign at beginning and end of three month display period

Heston: Will this fly on the Volunteers Green and Town Center flagpoles? When will the flags be risen and removed? Who will be responsible for the raising and removal of the flag? Richmond Racial Equity is willing to take on these tasks.

Parent: The Volunteers Green Park is the taller flagpole. If we have to go half-mast at the Town Center then the flag is close to dragging on the ground.

Naumann: We think the Volunteers Green flagpole is fine.

Furr: I support the Volunteers Green flagpole as it is much more visible.

Hill moved to delegate to the Richmond Racial Equity Group the duty of raising the Black Lives Matter Flag at the flagpole at Volunteers' Green and installing the Black Lives Matter sign in front of the Town Center on June 19 and to remove both the flag and the sign on September 19. Furr seconded.

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

Consideration of approving request for expanded seating at Big Spruce for Rooted Vermont pre-event gathering on July 29, 2022

Arneson: I talked with Gabe this afternoon and there is no plan for live music at this event. He wants to make sure he has enough space and last year he did not use the whole lot. He is asking for the entire lot for the entire day to make sure nobody is parking in the Municipal Lot. Greensea is open to this agreement.

Forward: If we take away this number of parking spaces this could create a problem elsewhere in the Village.

Heston: If we close it up on a weekday then we should talk to other businesses as well. We have some time to collect more feedback.

LaBounty: I have a concern about the lack of handicap spaces.

Hill: We should invite everybody before the next meeting. We can collect information for local businesses before the next Selectboard meeting.

Heston: Businesses can provide feedback before the meeting or attend the actual Selectboard meeting.

Hill: Does the timing of closing at 11 pm coincide with the Zoning decibel timelines?

Heston: We should confirm this information before we make a decision on this proposal. A crowd can make as much noise as a loud band.

Discussion with Williston Community Justice Center regarding services offered for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Heston: We are looking for you to help us with our community discussions around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

McSweeney: A few community members reached out to me based on the work we do in Williston. How do we strive to be an anti-racist community? How do we educate members of our community and engage in meaningful dialogue? We can offer trainings for Town employees and Police Departments while holding community conversations about what it means to be diverse, anti-racist and accountable. We look at Town Policy and Procedures. We bring people together through our strategic plan. This is where we are at in Williston.

Heston: We should absolutely consider this. How successful are you at getting other voices at the table?

McSweeney: The Williston CJC is a place to share thoughts and opinions with judgment or bias. We can be a great listener for the community for what we want to support. We have heard from a couple hundred people in the community. We use flyers, mass emails and speaking engagements to reach out.

Forward: The conversations are healthy even if they are controversial topics. What is the commitment from us and your capacity over a couple of years?

McSweeney: We have community partners who help support these conversations and dialogue. The larger vision requires about 10 hours a week and building capacity with great facilitators and not just one person.

Furr: We as a Selectboard cannot speak for the Town. Anything we can do to bring in all demographic groups cannot happen too soon.

Bender: Are you willing to give your sense of where Williston is going in regards to the Black Lives Matter sign.

McSweeney: A majority of the community is in favor of being anti-racist and we are looking at alternative visual representations and exploring other ways to pursue equity, diversity, and inclusion. We want to look at all people of color. We are peeling away the layers of those difficult conversations. We are preparing a comprehensive report for the Williston Selectboard which highlights what happens the next 3-5 years. We also look at State funding options for pursuing these values and educational opportunities.

Faour: Did you deal with Criminal Justice Council and their training programs at the State level? What type of training is it?

McSweeney: I have extensive training and put together the basic training for Town employees and we worked closely with other national programs like Cornell. We are working with local Reps and Legislatures to provide a universal approach across the State. We need to provide a safe environment for law enforcement to be good listeners before we educate.

Faour: It is still worrisome about the relationships with the police and the system. I prefer to hear about racism from somebody who has experienced or suffered from a racist system.

Kapitanski: Diversity, equity and inclusion training is not entirely left up to individual agencies. Every officer in Vermont is mandated biannually to undergo fair and impartial police training by Dr. Mercedes Avila. We can get a copy of the curriculum if you would like to review.

Forward: I would be interested in seeing a proposal. 10 hours a week is not insignificant, and I would be excited to do something like this. I would like to see the framework and commitment.

Heston: I would be interested in having a conversation about next steps. We should put it out to the community.

LaBounty: At minimum, you could have staff training for all Departments and look at hiring policies to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Forward: Maybe we could take a look at your Williston proposal to gauge the type of work. It is more about quality and less about size.

McSweeney: It is important to have action steps.

Hill: We asked 2-3 years ago, what can we do to promote change in the Town? What do we do with our policies and procedures that make substantial change?

Heston: We have proposed having Abundant Sun doing an educational session for community, staff and volunteers.

Discussion of creation of a Police Advisory Board

Heston: The Richmond Racial Equity group has drafted an outline for a Police Advisory Board. They have reviewed it with Josh and Chief Kapitanski.

Naumann: The Richmond Racial Equity group has been around for a couple of year involved with fair and impartial policing, advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion training, and working with the Town and Williston C.J.C. The proposal talks about some of the data. There has been improvement in our possible bias in policing over the years. The data around policing is very hard to access and interpret as provided by the State. Dr. Stephanie Seguino analyzed and presented the data in a more user-friendly format. Overall, we have a high rate of stopping people in Richmond compared to National and State averages. We have higher ticketing and arrest rates when comparing White to Latinx (or Hispanic). There is a higher search rate but lower hit rate for Black drivers. There are good things that come from accountability oversight for police. This includes building bridges between staff and community, ensuring accountability, decreasing lawsuit risks, rewarding police practices, increasing public confidence/trust, and protecting human rights.

The goals of this proposal are to reduce or eliminate bias, the number of people entering criminal justice system which disproportionately effects people of color and lower economic status. The Police Advisory Board proposal is based on Police reporting their data to the Selectboard in a public forum to reach the citizens. The citizens will be able to interact directly and foster connections. This will allow a better understanding of how our Police Department functions.

We are asking the Selectboard to support:

- *Development of a mission statement that reflects values and expectations and includes racial and social equity values

- *Publication of accessible documentation such as Police reports, activities, outcomes

- *Maintain transparency around planning, conduct and evaluation of all Police Trainings

- *Promote and conduct quarterly forums at Selectboard meetings to ensure a strong connection between the Police and community.

Forward: I was surprised by these numbers as 1,500 traffic stops a year seems like a lot. All of this data was before Chief Kapitanski joined Richmond Police Department. The percentages under Black, Latinx, White drivers are not that helpful if you do not know the absolute total numbers. Quarterly meetings are a challenge with everything else we have on our Selectboard agendas.

Naumann: In response to your question, over the 6 year period the data was collected there were police stops of 6,120 White drivers, 81 Black drivers, 77 Asian drivers, 54 Hispanic drivers, 12 Native American drivers, and 11 Unknown. Richmond Racial Equity is ready to work with Josh and Chief Kapitanski to develop a format of a report that is beneficial.

Furr: I support this. I agree that available and transparent statistics help improve our understanding of our Police Department. Would an average resident be able to find and sort through the information provided by the State? During my ride-along with some Officers, we have created a better understanding of our systems.

Hill: Act 142 creates a Division of Racial Justice Statistics in the Agency of Administration (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/print/2022/H546/meetings>). The bill has a similar purpose to improve data dashboards.

Heston: We should take advantage of the wheel that has been invented to accumulate our data on this. I would like to see more voices at the table. I would like to hear what other people would like to see from our Police.

Naumann: I would like for us not to wait for the State. We have some momentum and would like to get started.

Faour: It is up to the community and local government to oversee that such laws are functional. We have to see that these laws function properly.

Kapitanski: I agree that we would like to hear the community as a whole. We need to release data that is requested. Much of the requests would be simple to implement. I would be happy to release the data but cautious about jumping in without further counsel.

Faour: The problem with race data is not just a function of Police Departments. Can service be given by police to be consistent for different racial groups. The same applies to health services, mental health, housing, and other aspects of life.

Van Eeghen: Every community needs to engage more community members and all voices. It is important for the community to engage with data discussions, training, mission statement, and values. I was impressed with the ways the Williston C.J.C engage with different community members. This proposal provides multiple ways to start engagement.

Forward: We have a contract with Howard Mental Health services and similar data would be useful to understand from their perspective.

Hill: In small Towns, race data might be self-reported or so small that it might risk confidentiality or HIPAA standards.

Kapitanski: The mandatory race data collection currently in place is quite a task to get officers trained to collect the data a proper way. It resulted in some bad data being reported out. Collecting race data for every police encounter is not an easy lift. We would need to standardize what is considered a police encounter and how to effectively collect data. For instance, are we collecting data based on perceived race or some other criteria?

Heston: We have a proposal in front of us. We are not taking any action tonight. At a future meeting we can have a conversation with the Chief about what we can do immediately, what do we need to improve for the future, and what are some of the challenges.

Forward: Maybe Dr. Seguino and Chief Kapitanski can collaborate to what would be appropriate and consistent with other districts.

Naumann: We would like the Selectboard to support the proposal. We would work the Josh and Chief Kapitanski about reporting on some of these issues.

Hill: I suggest Josh, Chief Kapitanski and the Richmond Racial Equity group start sorting through how we collect and report data. They could look at short-term and long-term solutions. People do not actually have to fill out the box to define race.

Furr: If I run a report of patients on Medicare then about a third of people do not identify their race.

Hill: I encourage Josh, Chief Kapitanski and the Richmond Racial Equity group to begin those difficult conversations.

Kapitanski: How we decide to collect data based on self-identified or perceived race is also a function of how we want to use that data.

Heston: I would be interested in participating as a Selectboard member in a meeting with the Chief, Josh, and the Racial Equity group.

Furr: I would also like to be a part of those conversations.

Consideration of endorsing the Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Report

Alling: We are here to discuss the Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Report at http://www.richmondvt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/3n2-2022.06.06_Selectboard-Meeting-Updated-Sidewalk-Study.pdf

This consists of three different sections. We are here to gather feedback on the the alternatives from the Selectboard and Selectboard endorsement of preferred alternative.

Charest: I am the project manager on behalf of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). Our original intent was for each of the three roadways, Jericho Rd, Bridge St, and Huntington Rd. We are now just presenting Huntington Rd for information only. We recently became aware of some adjacent landowners' issues and

hope to reach a compromise before any endorsement. We are looking for endorsements for the Jericho Rd and Bridge St sections.

Farr, A: Was there a follow up meeting after the March 17th meeting?

Charest: There were meetings with the Richmond Transportation Committee.

Farr, A: We are a substantial landowner and ask that we be included in the process. It needs to be much more transparent.

Heston: There will be no decision on the Huntington Rd conversation tonight.

Alling: Segment 1 on Jericho Rd is from School driveway up to Valley View Rd on the west side. Segment 2 is the east side of Bridge St from Jolina Ct to Volunteers Green. Segment 3 is the Huntington Rd from Stone Corral Brewery to Cross Vermont trailhead at Johnnie Brook Rd.

*Segment 1 on Jericho Rd has two alternatives to improve pedestrian safety. Alternative 1 is a 5-foot sidewalk separated by a box beam guardrail. Alternative 2 is a 5-foot sidewalk separated by a 5-foot grass strip with a box beam guardrail. We have compared different criteria for both Alternatives to show that costs are fairly similar. Alternative 2 provides better Winter Maintenance for snow banks but it might create some ice across the sidewalks. Both Alternatives do not require a stormwater treatment or storm water permit.

*Segment 2 on Bridge St has two alternatives to improve pedestrian safety. Alternative 1 is a 5-foot sidewalk separated by a 5-foot grass strip. Alternative 2 only has a 2-foot grass strip. Both Alternatives would have a curb to be installed in 2022. The Transportation Committee is recommending Alternative 1. We have compared different criteria for both Alternatives to show that costs are fairly similar. Alternative 1 will likely have to remove mature trees but will have adequate snow storage.

Charest: The Transportation Committee's sentiment was to preserve the trees by narrowing the 5-foot green strip where needed.

Alling: Both Alternatives require additional care associated with the adjacent cemetery. Both Alternatives do not require a stormwater treatment or storm water permit.

*Segment 3 on Huntington Rd has two alternatives to improve both pedestrian and cyclist safety. Alternative 1 is a 10-foot path separated by a 5-foot grass strip. By the farmhouse, we taper away the 5-foot grass strip and bring in a box beam guardrail. Alternative 2 is a 10-foot path separated by a 5-foot grass strip with a different alignment behind the farmhouse. This avoids having to taper the grass strip as it goes behind the farmhouse instead of following the road. The Transportation Committee is recommending Alternative 1. We have compared different criteria for both Alternatives total project costs. Both Alternatives require a stormwater treatment and stormwater permitting.

*Public feedback for Jericho Rd generally favored a grass strip (Alternative 2). Public feedback for Bridge St showed strong support to east side sidewalks to eliminate multiple

crossings. Public feedback for Huntington Rd agreed it is currently a challenge for walkers and bikers and supported minimizing impacts near the Farr Farms farmhouse.

*Transportation Committee Recommendations:

-Jericho Rd preferred alternative with box rail to allow for a 5-foot path and green strip

-Bridge St preferred alternative with 5-foot sidewalk with 5-foot grass strip

-Huntington Rd preferred alternative with a 10-foot path with 5-foot grass strip.

Forward: What is our goal for tonight?

Alling: To answer any questions and to seek an endorsement for Jericho Rd and Bridge St.

Forward: I support the Jericho Rd and Bridge St projects. I agree we should delay the discussion on the Huntington Rd proposals.

Hill: How do the people from Valley View and Southview get to the sidewalk?

Alling: That would be a project to look at in the future.

Hill: We have a Park & Ride that people cannot get to. This solves 200 yards of the problem. We still have 500 yards in Valley View and Southview. Would residents allow students to walk to school with the proposed sidewalk?

Charest: We received feedback from those residents at our public meeting that they were in favor of using the Jericho Rd sidewalk.

Venkataraman: Jericho Rd was the major obstacle for Southview residents to get to the Village.

Heston: You can see cars coming on Southview, but Jericho Rd is an issue as there is no safe way between Southview and the school.

Hill: I think we should look at the Bridge St project as going all the way up to Main St.

Furr: The Bridge St sidewalk would be very useful. It is difficult to use at busy times during the day with the many crossings. Jericho Rd is a nightmare with excessive speeds both coming down and going up the hill. I think building the sidewalk to Southview would increase the number of students walking rather than taking the bus or getting dropped off.

Knowles: The Bike Pedestrian Master Plan 1 recommends traffic calming measures on Southview to accommodate the pedestrians going to the Jericho Rd sidewalk.

Forward: The crosswalks between the Community Kitchen and Richmond Market/Beverage should be included in the costs. At least temporary structures could be put up to alleviate safety concerns.

Heston: We have the proposal in front of us based on Transportation Committee recommendations.

Farr, E: The box guard rail was added to the study for Jericho Rd.

Gent: That is the preferred alternative for Jericho Rd. The next agenda item deals with the entire East side of Bridge St and applying for a Federal Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant.

Linn: On Jericho Rd, you will add a lot more water runoff downhill.

Alling: I agree but it is not enough to require State permits.

Linn: Have all the landowners on these parcels been included in your conversations and will they be reimbursed for the loss of land.

Alling: Yes, any project that takes any rights from private property does receive compensation.

Venkataraman: We sent out mailers to property owners and provided information from our list-serve. We sent out flyers and posted on Front Porch Forum about the public meetings.

Linn: When we change the road then the adjacent homes are closer to the setback.

Venkataraman: It is all speculative and needs to be reviewed based on structure, location, and setback.

LaBounty: Are you looking at eminent domain for easements on private property?

Venkataraman: Also, very speculative.

LaBounty: Are you proposing to be on any private property?

Alling: Only during the construction phase of Jericho Rd and Bridge St. Huntington Rd would require a permanent easement. The 10-foot segments on Huntington Rd were based on safety of bicyclists as well as pedestrians.

LaBounty: I think you should work directly with the Farris to see what works best for them in the Huntington Rd sidewalks. I strongly recommend the 2-foot green strip as there is none on the other side of the road.

Alling: This summer there are plans to put in a 2-foot grass strip on the west side of Bridge St sidewalks.

LaBounty: I am very concerned about the sidewalk 5-foot grass area. It is a potential issue along that hill of the Cemetery. I recommend a crosswalk from Jolina Ct to the Richmond Market & Beverage. This sidewalk should not end at a road.

Forward: I am worried about snow storage on the Bridge St section.

Gent: Pete recommends 5-foot grass strips for snow storage.

Paulsen: There is a very steep hill between the Community Kitchen and the Main Street lights. Would you create a wall?

Venkataraman: The study from last year identified the need for a retaining wall.

Farr, E: I would like to look at the 4 different Huntington Rd options that were presented at the March 17th meeting when we reconvene on this subject. Our opposition to Alternative 2 is that it is in a flood plain that is under water at least twice every year.

Alling: The 3rd option was widened shoulders on Huntington Rd. The issue is that it does not provide a safe walking and riding space for all abilities.

Farr, E: We would like to talk about this with the Selectboard in the future.

LaBounty: Can we talk to Pete Gosselin about the 5-foot and 2-foot green space on Bridge St again?

Knowles: We did discuss this on the Transportation Committee. The west side is based on the current utility poles, sidewalks and right of way. The east side we do not have those constraints. A 5-foot strip allows for plowing space that does not bury the sidewalks like what always happens on East Main St.

LaBounty: Be cautious of the cemetery or digging up graves.

Knowles: These are scoping studies of what is possible. There are not specific design plans yet where we might go down to 4-foot or 2-foot green space to avoid taking out a mature tree to disrupting the cemetery.

Furr moved to endorse the recommendations by the Project Advisory Committee and the recommendations for alternatives from the Transportation Committee for the Bridge Street and Jericho Road portions of the Richmond Sidewalks Scoping Report. Forward seconded.

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

Consideration of approval of submitting for 2022 Federal Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant

Venkataraman: The Transportation Committee would like to apply for this grant to connect the sidewalk from Main Street all the way down the east side of Bridge St to Esplanade. This would include crosswalk improvements for proper crossings. The total cost of this project would be \$577,000. This grant would include engineering and construction coinciding with future public meetings. If we were to receive this award, build out would occur 3-5 years from now. We are applying to only one of the two grants available. I talked to the VTrans Grant Program Manager and this one is a strong candidate due to the gap, the need, and population served in our designated center.

Furr moved to approve applying for a 2022 Federal Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant to fund the construction of sidewalks on the east side of Bridge Street and streetscape improvements along Bridge Street, allocating \$115,400 for the construction grant match, and naming Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman as the grant manager. Hill seconded

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

Update on reappraisal process

Heston: Lisa from NEMRC is here. Thanks for taking the time to give us a quick run down of the report.

Truchon: There are 1,742 active parcels in Richmond. To date we have completed site visits at 1271 or 73% complete. We will finish up residential parcels and start the commercial properties later this summer. We will visit the Mobile Home Parks in the early fall. After all the data is collected, we will begin the review process which looks at property sales from the last 3 years to help calibrate the computer cost tables. A Notice of Change in Assessment will be mailed to all property owners in late spring 2023. I have included a report showing the valid sales by year and calculated the aggregate ratio for each year. The Real Estate Market in Richmond continues to improve. The aggregate sales ratio for 20-21 was .8068 and for 21-22 is .6610. Demand is very high and supply keeps getting smaller and smaller.

Update on current cost of Williams Hill Rd. hearing and lawsuit

Arneson: The spreadsheet shows the costs associated with the public hearing last Fall on Williams Hill Rd. There were \$12,789.02 in legal fees and surveying associated with hearings or law suits along with some mailing costs. After the hearing closed, there was a suit brought against the Town which was \$12,071.10 in legal and survey fees as of the end of March, 2022. I did receive a bill for April with an additional \$800 in legal and survey fees with an anticipated \$3,100 bill for May. We are waiting to hear back from the judge for the motion.

Forward: There is one landowner who is suing the Town. If the landowner wins the case then they will acquire the property the Town thinks they own. Is that a correct summary?

Heston: Some of the fees are associated with surveying costs.

Furr: First there was a hearing then a lawsuit. It was originally about the Trails Committee startling the landowner who submitted a petition to discontinue the road and not turned into a trail. The hearing provides options to discontinue the road or keep it as is. We decided to keep it as is which was before the lawsuit.

Forward: If we lose this lawsuit then do the landowners acquire this land?

Sander: Not necessarily. The road is set up in such a way as adjoining landowners deeds say their land stops at the side of the road. We need to figure out who would ultimately own the land under the road.

Arneson: If the Town loses the lawsuit, then it says that the road never existed as a Town road. Then we would have to figure out who owns it. Once the Town loses the road, then the Town might be out and up to the private landowners to figure it out. I am not sure.

Forward: This is a road that has been on Town and State maps for over 150 years, correct?

Furr: Yes, but we cannot find a piece of paper that legally says that the road came into existence. The only reason we keep this going is because of the deed that state they current owners do not own the land under the road.

Heston: We are now bordering on information that might not be public. We have put out the costs associated with the hearing and lawsuit so far.

LaBounty: The mapping of this road is duplicative as the Town thought Palmer Lane was Palmer Road. If Towns didn't claim these types of roads between 2011-2015 then they became discontinued by law. We might not have the full picture. The Town should decide before we go further whether this would be used for future vehicular traffic or for recreational trails. Here is my point. We should not be having taxpayers foot the bill for these legal fees if we are looking to have trails when there is a Conservation Fund. In other words, do not marginalize a group of people who cannot afford a \$1,000 mountain bike.

Heston: We made the decision a long time ago to keep the road as is. The Trails Committee started with a proposal that started this conversation. We are now waiting to hear from the judge. Once we have a decision from the judge then we will determine how to move forward.

Update on meeting with Chittenden Country Regional Planning Commission regarding the Rt. 2 repaving project

Arneson: On May 26th we met with Charlie Baker (from CCRPC) to talk about VTrans pausing paving project until they commit to the 5-foot shoulders for the entire length of that segment. The timeline would be up to 10 years to get those pinch points fixed. He suggested we try to work collaboratively with VTrans. If we paid for the scoping study and included VTrans then it might improve our chances to expand the pinch points. Pete suggested that in 10 years, VTrans might need to come back anyways for surface improvements. We asked for a follow-up with VTrans and can begin working on a scoping study.

Gent: The CCRPC staff have talked to the Transportation Committee about doing a Scoping Study this year to analyze and find a solution to the pinch points. The Town would have a 20% match and would be working with Regional Planning Commission. We would invite VTrans as an active participant. There will be a proposal prepared and brought to the Selectboard.

Update on Library Trustee decision on the compensation study

Arneson: They were discussing this tonight so we will move that for next meeting.

Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Purchase Orders

Furr moved to approve the PO# 4375 to Richmond Water Resources for 4th quarter education taxes in the amount of \$50,432.00. Hill seconded.

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

Furr moved to approve the PO# 4245 to F.W. Whitcomb Construction Corp. for paving on Bridge St, Volunteers Green, Town Garage, Cochran Rd, Dugway South Apron, Duxbury Rd and Lower Southview Drive as outlined in bid to not exceed \$294,000. Forward seconded.

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

Furr moved to approve the PO# 4380 to Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District for 4th quarter education taxes in the amount of \$1,738,587.11. Hill seconded.

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

Warrants

Forward: Green Mountain Power identified 80 streetlights with conventional lighting. As Town Energy Coordinator, I thought we had converted to LEDs a long time ago. GMP found that 81 lights were converted to LED light fixtures and have been overcharging us for last 5 years. They are working out the details, but it should be \$15,000-\$20,000 we were overcharged.

Sander: I am puzzled and perturbed as I asked the same question 5 years ago and received a different answer. I was told we were buying the use of the light. I am glad it is being addressed now.

Furr moved to approve the warrants as presented. Hill seconded

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

Minutes

Heston: The Minutes of 5/16/22 needs to be changed at the top of page 2, first paragraph, last sentence. It should read “the motion to dismiss” and not “the motion or dismiss”

Forward moved to approve the Minutes of 5/16/22 as presented with the typo correction. Hill seconded.

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

Discuss Items for Next Agenda

- *Big Spruce Request
- *Library Compensation
- *Fraud List
- *Sidewalk scoping study

Executive Session: Labor Relations Agreement with New England Police Benevolent Association Local 415

Furr moved to find that open discussion of potential terms for the collective bargaining agreement with the Town’s police officers union would place that Town at a substantial disadvantage because premature disclosure would impair the Town’s bargaining position. Hill seconded.

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

Furr moved to enter executive session under V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss a potential contract proposal to the Town's police officers union and to invite Police Chief and Town Manager to the executive session. Hill seconded.

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

Furr moved to exit the executive session. Hill seconded.

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

Executive Session: Evaluation of a public employee

Furr moved to enter executive session under V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the evaluation of a public employee and to invite Town Manager Josh Arneson into the executive session. Hill seconded.

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

Hill moved to exit the executive session. Furr seconded.

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

Adjournment

Hill moved to adjourn. Furr seconded

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 pm

Chat file from Zoom:

01:36:48 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Thank you, Cristalee!
01:37:09 Ann Naumann: Thank you so much Cristalee.
02:09:43 Patty Brushett: Isn't race one of the data points on everyone's driver's license?
02:17:01 Patty Brushett: I'm wrong that data is not on the VT license
02:17:10 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Just checked my license, Patty; no race identifier there
02:21:11 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Thank you, Selectboard!
02:21:17 gretchen paulsen: Thank you Ann.
02:21:33 Ann Naumann: Thank you for your time and brain power!
02:22:04 Bonny Steuer : Thank you Selectboard, Josh and Chief !
02:23:07 gretchen paulsen: Thank you Everyone for working together on this proposal and discussion on details to make it work.
03:10:05 Jason Charest | CCRPC: https://studiesandreports.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/20210827_RichmondBridgeStreet_ScopingMemo_WithAppendices.pdf
03:12:02 Jason Charest | CCRPC: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/richmond-village-sidewalks-scoping-study/>