



TOWN OF RICHMOND

RICHMOND TOWN CENTER
203 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 285
Richmond, Vermont 05477



April 3, 2023

Vermont Traffic Committee
State of Vermont
2178 Airport Rd.
Barre, VT 05641

RE: Request to prohibit parking on north side of Rt. 2 (West Main St.) in Richmond between the Driveway to Richmond Family Medicine at 30 West Main St. and the driveway to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church at 64 West Main St.

Dear Vermont Traffic Committee,

The Richmond Selectboard is requesting to prohibit parking on north side of Rt. 2 (West Main St.) in Richmond between the driveway to Richmond Family Medicine at 30 West Main St. and the driveway to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church at 64 West Main St. Please see the enclosed map for a more detailed depiction of this area.

The Selectboard has heard from many residents with safety concerns specifically related to exiting the driveway at 64 West Main St. This driveway serves traffic exiting from the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church and Richmond Family Medicine. Site lines are obstructed by vehicles parked on Rt. 2 east of this driveway.

This issue was initially brought to the attention of the Selectboard by the doctors at Richmond Family Medicine. That letter is enclosed. After the topic was discussed in a Selectboard meeting the Selectboard received another letter in support of creating a no parking zone in this area from Richmond Residents Robert and Kathleen Manley, this letter is also enclosed.

The Selectboard discussed this topic at the following meetings:

- January 3, 2023
- January 17, 2023
- February 6, 2023
- February 21, 2023

The minutes of the discussions of this topic at each of the above meetings are enclosed.

Prior to the February 21, 2023 meeting the following public outreach was conducted to seek feedback from residents:

- Letter mailed to property owners in the vicinity of the area of concern.
- Post on Front Porch Forum.

A copy of the letter and a document summarizing the feedback that was received is enclosed.

As you will see from the feedback, the majority of residents who responded are concerned about safety in this location and would like to see a no parking area created to improve the line of site when exiting the driveway.

The Richmond Selectboard is requesting that VTrans implement a no parking zone on the north side of Rt. 2 (West Main St.) in Richmond between the driveway to Richmond Family Medicine at 30 West Main St. and the driveway to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church at 64 West Main St.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please let us know if you require any further information.

Sincerely

Jay Furr
Richmond Selectboard Chair
Jay.fur@richmondvt.org

PROPOSED NO PARKING AREA

Route 2 between driveways of Richmond Medical/Family Health and Holy Rosary Church





**RICHMOND
Family Medicine**

Selectboard Town of Richmond
Linda Parent, Town Clerk
203 Bridge Street
Richmond, VT 05477

Dear Ms. Parent and Selectboard Members:

As the Doctors at Richmond Family Medicine, we are writing to express our concern regarding a traffic hazard on Route 2/West Main Street in Richmond. Cars parked in front of Richmond Family Medicine at 30 West Main Street obstruct the view of traffic for drivers exiting the shared driveway for our clinic parking lot and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church. We had previously understood that concerns about parking along Route 2 should be referred to VTrans, but in the past VTrans was unwilling to address this issue, and we recently learned that VTrans suggests that we bring this to the attention of the Town of Richmond.

We propose that the town of Richmond prohibit parking on Route 2 in front of 30 West Main Street to facilitate safe egress from the clinic and church and in an effort to prevent collisions.

Sincerely,

Hannah Rabin

Dan Goodyear

Robert Areson

Jan. 10, 2023

To: Town of Richmond Selectboard

We are writing to advise you of a dangerous traffic situation in Richmond and to ask for action on your part to implement measures to correct it.

This involves the egress of traffic from the driveway of Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church on West Main St. If there are vehicles parked in front of the Richmond Family Medical office there is very little visibility (if any) for vehicles exiting the driveway of the church to see oncoming traffic from the 4 corners (at the traffic light). There are vehicles speeding up to make it through the lights, vehicles turning right on red at the end of Jericho Rd and traffic in general. Especially dangerous if large, long delivery trucks are parked there delivering produce to Cumberland Farms. It has happened more than once for us that we have almost been hit by an oncoming vehicle due to this lack of visibility towards the 4 corners. This impacts all vehicles exiting that driveway (church goers, staff and clients of the medical practice). This is their only egress.

We would recommend at least a **No Parking zone** in front of the medical office if not also from the 4 corners to the church driveway. This would allow for much improved safety for all vehicles and their passengers exiting that driveway.

Thank you for taking this under advisement and will hope for positive action on the part of the Town of Richmond.

Robert and Kathleen Manley

Residents at 78 East Main St.

bkmanley@comcast.net

Kathleen Manley
Robert E Manley

**Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of January 3, 2023**

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Benjamin Herrick, Interim Police Chief

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Allen Knowles, Cara LaBounty, Celcia Danks, Chuck Gilroy, Connie Van Eeghen, Diane Mariano, Erin Farr, Ian Bender, John Cohn, John Rankin, Kevin McAleer, Lauck Parke, Lisa Kory, Lisa Miller, Martha Nye, Pennie Rand, Susan Wells, Warren Myers

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by:

Heston: I am in a hotel room in D.C. and saw the swearing in of our new Senator Welch today. I attempted to see Becca Balint sworn into the House, but they are still trying to figure out their Speaker.

Public Comment:

Sander: Senator Welch is only the second Democratic Senator elected from Vermont. I also wanted to mention that as I was driving tonight I almost hit a pedestrian by the crosswalk between Big Spruce and Hatchet. The people did not use the crosswalk lights. I was driving slowly but I still almost hit them because it was dark, rainy and the lighting is horrible. I am reminding pedestrians to please use the crosswalk lights for everyone's safety.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Consideration of approving bond vote for waterline replacement project

Arneson: This is a waterline replacement project for Tilden Ave., parts of Bridge St. and parts of Cochran Rd. The bonding authority rests with the Selectboard, while only the water and sewer customers would be repaying this bond. We will have documents that explain this as we get closer to the vote. This was discussed at the Water & Sewer meeting tonight. We had one edit on the Necessity Resolution in the 3rd paragraph to add "estimated" aggregate cost. We wanted to keep it consistent with the rest of the documentation. The Commission recommends that the Selectboard approve the water bond vote. This project would be funded by the Drinking Water Stater Revolving Fund at a 50% discount. This project would not be bid until at least next Fall or Winter.

box to collect the data. When Highway has time, we can make those changes to the current signs.

Heston: There is work to be done. We might get a small group together with Chief Herrick to help get a plan in place.

Discussion of requesting a No Parking zone on West Main St. near the intersection with Bridge St. and Jericho Rd.

Heston: There have been a couple of community members, including the doctors at Richmond Family Medicine, expressing concern about vehicles parked on the north side of West Main St. between the intersection with Bridge St. and the Holy Rosary Church. The concerns are people pulling out from the shared exit between the church and the doctor's office. A letter from Richmond Family Medicine is included in the packet. A couple of people have given us feedback on how dangerous it is there.

Arneson: In addition to the doctor's office, we have also heard from a few community members. There were also concerns about trucks turning off of Bridge St. and clearing parking spots. The process to get this changed is the Selectboard makes a specific request to VTrans. Any details about no parking so-many-feet from an intersection is helpful. VTrans likes to see public outreach for feedback from residents and businesses. We can also add a map for more detail. Then we send it to Ian Degutis a VTrans engineer who would review. He might come back to the Selectboard to come up with an idea he could support. It would then go to the Traffic Committee from VTrans. If they decided to enforce no-parking, then VTrans would put up the signs and we would have to change our ordinance to make it enforceable. The next meeting from VTrans is in May so we have a little bit of time to put together a recommendation.

Forward: We get a lot of comments about parking in the commercial block. That is parking currently available. We can ask how much that parking is currently available, used, needed, or wanted.

Hill: I walk through that area a lot and the challenging times are during heavy traffic. There are times where that whole corner is a cluster of activity of people going every way. The sightlines are challenging. A few people have talked to me about going from the corner past the Ski & Snowboard Express and past apartment building and maybe past the medical building. It is a handful of parking spots. It is in front of the apartment building and the medical building with about 3-4 spots in each location. I think it falls to us, the Chief, and Highway.

Heston: It is busy during certain times of the day with kids often crossing as well. I think we have to figure out how we do it. We cannot make a decision tonight.

LaBounty: You might consider parking time-periods and painted lines on the road. Since they are re-doing Rt. 2 anyhow, they can paint the parking and no-parking spaces. It is a pattern, so you are going to have to break the cycle of what people are used to and sign isn't going to do it. Through the years, the Selectboard has created their own parking problems in the Village. You did away with the number of sites required per on-site business parking. We created a need for public parking and not creating spaces to

meet that need. You should use engineers from VTrans, CCRPC, and other experts to solve the issue in the Village.

Sander: There was a conversation with VTrans that there shouldn't be parking in front of the apartment due to the space.

Rabin: I am one of the doctors at Richmond Family Medicine. We do have a one-way entrance on the east side of our building and the exit is through the shared parking lot with the Holy Rosary Church. The issue is our patients are leaving and cannot see on-coming traffic going west. People who park in front of our building are often going across the street. They are blocking sightlines and it is a tragedy waiting to happen.

Arneson: I thought there might need to be a study but we follow the process I outlined earlier with the VTrans Traffic Committee.

Hill: Accident data for this area is probably worth looking at coming in and out. It is due diligence looking at where are the actual accidents.

Discussion of police governance

Heston: At the last meeting we discussed possibly hiring an Interim Director of Police Services, or temporary Chief similar to when we had Paco Aumand.

Arneson: I have included the posting and job description.

Heston: We have a couple of options. We can continue with Ben as Interim. We can begin a hiring process for a Chief which might not be a permanent position depending on possible merger. We could hire an Interim Director of Police Services which could help with administrative duties and a potential strategic planning process. We have a possible conversation with Hinesburg. I feel like right now as a Town we are very limited in our Police services because we are not able to get people hired, Ben is burning the candle on both ends. Ben is trying to do day-to-day Police work with administrative work. This conversation is important to have if we really want to focus on the strategic planning. We need someone to lead the path. We are not making a decision on this. We need to take a step in one of these directions.

Hill: I think the 2nd and 3rd bullet in this document are the same bullet. I don't think there is a big difference. We might say we are looking for somebody, we prefer a Chief but we would consider an interim director.

Heston: We can look for a temporary Chief. We can entertain applicants who are qualified without a certification because then we can change the title.

Forward: I like Bard's suggestion. It is either-or depending on who applies. The ideal is to have a Chief who can do the strategic planning. The strategic planning comes after we figure out the position.

Heston: We have a question in the chat:

"If you are in talks with Hinesburg, would the Hinesburg Chief be able to help, it would

**Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of January 17, 2023**

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Connie Bona, Finance Director; Peter Gosselin, Highway Foreman; Benjamin Herrick, Interim Police Chief

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Cara LaBounty, Chuck Gilroy, Connie Van Eeghen, Diane Mariano, Hannah iPhone, Hannah Rabin, John Cohn, John Linn, John Rankin, Kevin McAleer, Lauck Parke, Lisa Miller, Martha Nye, Rod West, Susanne Parent

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by: Heston

Public Comment: None

Additions or Deletions to Agenda:

Heston: I would like to add 15 minutes to the “Review of FY23 Q2 financial reports” and move the “Discussion of forming a gardening committee” and “Staffing update” to the next meeting to keep us on time.

Forward: I would suggest putting off the Tesla decision as well. I am still collecting information.

LaBounty: I suggest moving other items to the beginning of the meeting for people waiting in-person for that topic.

McAleer: The Parking Advisory Committee is waiting for John Cohn and Diane Mariano.

Heston: When you have everybody, we can move it earlier.

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Consideration of request by the Planning Commission to view the memo from the attorney regarding Summit Distributing, LLC Appeal of Conditional Use Approval to the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court

Furr: I am in favor of just releasing it.

Hill: I do not feel compelled to do this under Executive Session.

Arneson: We added “Must be present, in person, to vote on Articles 1-3.” Then we put the MMUSD Annual Meeting information at the bottom of the Special Notes.

Furr moved to approve the 2023 Town Meeting Warning as modified and presented. Sander seconded.

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

Consideration of selling the Tesla police cruiser

Heston: We are by-passing the Tesla conversation.

Public input on parking issues on West Main St. near Richmond Family Medicine and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

Heston: We are discussing restricting parking because it is dangerous pulling out of the shared exit with the Catholic Church and Richmond Family Medicine.

Arneson: The process with VTrans is the Selectboard would receive feedback from residents of the suggested changes. Then the Selectboard would write a summary potentially including a map of where to park or not to park. A traffic engineer at VTrans would then view that and perhaps make some suggestions. Then the VTrans Committee would decide the changes to parking if any. VTrans would install the signs if there were changes. Feedback from the public is important for the summary.

Heston: We have received a number of letters regarding the safety issues.

Forward: Has there been any effort to reach out to businesses in the commercial block?

Arneson: It has just been on the Selectboard agenda.

Hill: We could do some outreach to those businesses whose customers and employees are parking there.

West: I am curious about the permits for Richmond Family Medicine as there was a no-parking area to the east of their driveway.

Heston: The request is to keep it no-parking due to the limited line-of-sight coming out of the driveway. There are essentially 3-4 spots in front of both the apartment building and Richmond Family Medicine. We are looking to remove those spots. Richmond Family Medicine is concerned about people pulling out of the exit because they cannot see cars traveling west.

LaBounty: I request you look back at the plans and have better markings for parking. If you keep eliminating parking spaces in the Village then you risk the survival of businesses in that area. If it is a safety issue then that is a no-brainer and you do not need to go to the State.

Heston: There was a construction trailer parked in front of the apartment building for a while. The real issue is coming out of the Holy Rosary Church. You can take care of that issue if you just take away parking in front of Richmond Family Medicine.

Forward: I think parking in the Village is important to the commercial block as well. We should notify those businesses and get their comments as well. It would be an opportune time to remind businesses that employees should park in the remote lot on Depot St.

Rabin: I have concerns about large trucks or vans parking in front of the residential building due to the blocked line-of-sight. I have a hard time getting out to go home from the clinic.

Heston: The businesses should be notified other than an agenda on Front Porch Forum. We may need to bring this up again.

Hill: I tend to gravitate towards the lightest touch to see if that works. That seems to be in front of Richmond Family Medicine.

Heston: It is important to figure it out now so we can do it when the road gets torn up.

Arneson: I will have VTrans look through their files to see what they have got.

Follow up on placement of radar speed feedback signs

Heston: We have four Radar Speed Feedback Signs to place in Richmond. At the last meeting the following four locations were discussed:

- West end of Rt. 2 as the speed drops from 40 mph to 30 mph.
- East end of Rt. 2 as the speed drops from 40 mph to 30 mph
- West end of Cochran Rd. near the intersection with Huntington Rd.
- East end of Cochran Rd. near the turnoff from Rt. 2 and the bridge over the Winooski River.

Arneson: If we want to do it on Rt. 2 there is some guidance from VTrans which is easy to follow. Our mobile speed cart is back so we need to collect 7 days of data at the speed transition point where it drops from 40 to 30 mph. They need to see that the 85th percentile of speed is at least 2 mph over the posted speed in order for us to put a permanent Radar Speed Feedback Sign. Should we look at other spots? Where exactly on the west end of Cochran Rd.? Sai Sarepalli from CCRPC can help with both questions. He can look at the two locations on Cochran Rd. and provide guidance on the exact location for sign placement. If you want to look at more options, then he can help us sort through best placement for 6 months to a year.

Hill: I think we should install signs on the west and east end of Rt. 2 where we can slow them at both ends. Then we can start collecting data. Then we should follow up with CCRPC about Cochran Rd.

Forward: We also have two existing ones that collect data that are close to the appropriate location going in one direction. We have also heard of the specific problem of people coming off of Huntington Rd. and not slowing down onto Cochran Rd. People come down the hill on Huntington Rd. and do not slow down going past Stone Corral toward Cochran Rd. I think a good placement for a sign would be going east on Huntington Rd. by the Farr's. It will be good to collect data.

Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Connie Bona, Finance Director; Allen Carpenter, Interim Water Resources Superintendent; Alyson Dengler, Police Officer; Benjamin Herrick, Interim Police Chief

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Angela Cote, Cara LaBounty, Chuck Gilroy, Dave T, David Thomas, Erin Farr, Francine Pomerantz, Jeanann Haskin, Jim Monahan, John Rankin, Kathy, Katie Mather, Kevin McAleer, Lauck Parke, Lisa Kory, Lisa Miller, Martha Nye, Patty Brushett, Rod West, Steve Bower, Susan Wells, Virginia Clarke

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by: Heston

Public Comment:

LaBounty: I have provided the Selectboard with information from the attorney for the Vermont Secretary of State's Office regarding access and storage of public records. Richmond is not currently doing that. They have 10 days to provide information from a public request. I have been asking for information for many, many months. I am asking the Selectboard to take action and remedy the situation. I asked for information regarding the Water and Sewer Department and the cost of the expansion project out to the Gateway. If the Town of Richmond has destroyed records than that is an issue.

Heston: I checked the State website, and some things can be destroyed after an audit.

LaBounty: If you destroy things after an audit then there is no reason that we cannot have electronic copies.

Hill: This might be a follow up for a future agenda. I have not looked at our Town policy for maintenance of records. We need to look at the remediation of the immediate issue and then address future issues.

Furr: I agree that we should be scanning everything. Server space is not going to fill up and it could be electronically searchable.

Mather: Scanning and making it publicly searchable is easier said than done. It takes a fair amount of time. It has to be scanned and stored in a particular location.

LaBounty: This is for staff to be able to search for it.

Furr: It can be done if you are systematic about it.

Arneson: We have had a lot of different discussions and studies, both in the past, ongoing, and still to come, regarding traffic calming on Cochran Rd. Here is a short summary of next steps and timeline in this process.

*CCRPC is working on a study to be completed by June 2023 to advise on location of temporary traffic control measures. This will likely focus on temporary speed humps and painting. They will help us figure out where those should be.

*We have a request to CCRPC to work on a longer-term study to be completed by June 2024 which would be a corridor study for all of Cochran Rd. along with focused scoping for the 25 mile per hour sections at either end of Cochran Rd. It is likely that this project will be approved by CCRPC, but it has not yet been officially approved. This study will produce suggestions and locations for permanent traffic calming measures.

*CCRPC will conduct a traffic count in April or May in both 25 mph zones and in the 45-mph zone of Cochran Rd. This data will help to inform both studies 1) the temporary traffic control measures, and 2) the corridor and scoping study. This will be conducted prior to installation of speed humps as the data will help determine the location of the speed humps for a temporary basis.

*The Selectboard has expressed a desire to install radar speed feedback signs on either end of Cochran Rd. as soon as possible. CCRPC should have a recommendation for specific locations of these within a couple of weeks. This will hopefully slow traffic and the traffic count study will be affected by this, but in discussion with CCRPC we felt it was worth implementing this measure ASAP to try to make some more immediate change to speeds on Cochran Rd. There are two other radar speed feedback signs as you enter the 25 mph zones coming from the middle.

I can post this on Front Porch Forum and our website.

Hill: We are trying to do things quickly to get things in place. These planning initiatives through CCRPC and elsewhere take months to years.

Wells: That is really helpful to have that list. The Transportation Committee is doing a study about the intersection of Cochran Rd. and Bridge St. How does that fit in?

Arneson: We have talked about that intersection in regards to the radar speed feedback signs. Last summer we also looked at a teardrop island. It might be conceptual.

Furr: CCRPC will give us some guidance on that.

Arneson: I will follow up with Cathleen and Chris, the Chairs of the Transportation Committee.

Update on parking issues on West Main St. near Richmond Family Medicine and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

Arneson: We previously mentioned that this area used to be a no-parking zone on Rt 2. Ian Degutis, the VTrans State Traffic Engineer, stated that in 2005 the Town asked for

that to be rescinded and it was. Then in 2010, the Town asked for the No Parking zone to be reinstated but that request was declined by the Traffic Committee. He assured me that the Committee looks at current conditions and current safety issues. The Selectboard should outline the current safety issues as well as possible. He would help support it if he saw that safety issue. It would then go to the Traffic Committee with new evidence about what is going on in this area. Our next step is to inform residents and business owners in that area about this item at our next meeting. We can gather more information and write a formal letter.

Heston: The 2010 denial was based on evidence that there were no accidents. We may get the same answer.

Hill: It is clear to me we need to look at actual accident data. They do not look at close calls. The light by Rt 2 and 117 was put in based on the number of accidents and glass on the road. I am not defending or assailing it.

Forward: Are the VTrans Traffic Committee meetings public meetings? Can our residences and business owners provide input?

Arneson: Yes. One meeting that I went to there was an opportunity to provide feedback.

Heston: We have to provide evidence first. We will ask for feedback at our next meeting.

Hill: We should have a sense of the community if that is what they want.

Discussion of forming a gardening committee

Heston: This came up at an ARPA meeting. It was discussed that perhaps a Gardening Committee could be formed.

Furr: The genesis of this came from a lot of ARPA suggestions that came down to the beautification of Volunteers Green and other parts around Town. If people want to be on a Committee then they could decorate around the Welcome to Richmond sign and plant flowers here.

Forward: I also heard there was interest in Community Vegetable Gardens which are two different things.

LaBounty: I remember that ARPA talked about should we put Community Gardens at the Volunteers Green. The Recreation Committee said they were not going to tackle that and we could have a Gardening Committee. I think it was more where people could grow vegetables in a patch.

Furr: I might be conflating my discussions with Mary Houle in the hallway and in the ARPA meetings. The rest of Chittenden County has much larger scale opportunities. I think there would be interest and we could also look at beautification.

Heston: Should we add this to the list of Committee Members?

To: Richmond Village Residents & Businesses
Re: Parking on north-west side of Rt 2 intersection in Village

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Richmond Selectboard is seeking your feedback on a proposed parking change on the north-west side of Rt. 2 intersection in the Village. This is the area on the north side of Rt. 2, to the west of the traffic signal at the intersection of Rt. 2 and Bridge St. The Town is considering asking VTrans to reduce the number of allowed parking spaces between Richmond Family Medicine and the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church. Please consider providing feedback in written form, the online form, or in person at the February 21st Selectboard meeting.

The Selectboard is considering this request due to concerns about safety around sightlines and crossings on Rt.2 and the intersection. The Selectboard is receiving feedback from residents before writing a summary to the VTrans traffic engineer. Feedback from the public is important for the summary. The summary will contain information on existing conditions, feedback from residents, and a suggestion for altering parking in this area. The summary will then be submitted to the VTrans Traffic Committee, and that Committee will have the final decision on any parking changes on Rt. 2.

The map below shows a dark dotted line concerning the proposed parking spaces.



Please pass this along to any tenants or other interested people. We appreciate your opinion so please consider any options:

*In-person, February 21st Selectboard meeting. The meeting starts at 7pm. The time that this agenda item will be discussed is to be determined.

*In writing, Drop Box at Town Offices, 203 Bridge St. by February 18th

*Online Form at: <https://forms.gle/pbWhnTmPn6e6xVM47>

Sincerely,
Josh Arneson
Richmond Town Manager

FRONT PORCH FORUM POST

Parking on NW Side of Rt. 2 Intersection in Village

2/10/2023

frontporchforum.com/user/submissions

Front Porch Forum Richmond, VT - Our... Calendar - Richmon... Water and Sewer C... Selectboard Meetin... Municipal Directory... Richmond, Vermont

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Published

Parking on NW Side of Rt. 2 Intersection in Village

Richmond - No. 5207 • Duncan Wardwell • Assistant to Town Manager, Richmond
Posted to: Richmond
Feb 10, 2023

Announcement

The Town of Richmond Selectboard is seeking your feedback on a proposed parking change on the north-west side of Rt. 2 intersection in the Village. This is the area on the north side of Rt. 2, to the west of the traffic signal at the intersection of Rt. 2 and Bridge St. The Town is considering asking VTrans to reduce the number of allowed parking spaces between Richmond Family Medicine and the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church. Please consider providing feedback in written form, the online form, or in person at the February 21st Selectboard meeting.

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- *In writing, Drop Box at Town Offices, 203 Bridge St. by February 18th
- *Online Form at: <https://forms.gle/pbWhnTmPn6e6xVM47>

[read less](#)

Count of Remove Parking? No=5 Yes=17

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 5:06:15 PM

From: paulinef137@comcast.net

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I agree there should be no vehicles from the brick house to the driveway of the church. I have had at least three incident this year by almost being hit trying to get out of the church/doctor.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 5:06:27 PM

From: greg921@aol.com

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: Many times over the last few years I have had issues trying to pull out back on to route 2 from the parking lot to go left. I have gotten so I now go right and turn around and go back if I needed to go left to go to the store, post office etc.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 5:07:21 PM

From: Idiamond@uvm.edu

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: yes remove! the parking spaces. you could also create a NO LEFT TURN into Cumberland Farms from W.Main Street/Rt 2 while heading north. Almost had several collisions there.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 5:25:55 PM

From: loganhbrown@gmail.com

Remove Parking? No

Message: Keep the spaces. We need all the parking we can get.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 5:31:59 PM

From: ryan@freebern.org

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: Please reduce these parking spots. The intersection is often very busy, and pulling into or out of these spots can be confusing to other drivers even when properly signaling.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 5:39:46 PM

From: timpatterson802@gmail.com

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I frequently use the cross walks near this location. It is extremely dangerous, and having cars parked along Rt 2 makes it more dangerous. I've personally witnessed multiple near misses, and I have been struck by a car that was reversing out of a parking spot and didn't see me while I was walking. Luckily the car was moving slowly and I avoided injury.

PLEASE follow through by implementing this proposed parking change, and please consider additional measures to make the area safer.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 5:41:30 PM

From: dtft5171@gmavt.net

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: Several of the parking spaces should be removed. When coming out of the driveway at Holy Rosary, be it after a church service, a Community Senior Ctr activity or Hale and Hearty Meeting or a medical appointment, it is very difficult

to see to the East if there are cars parked close to the entrance of the Holy Rosary exit. Years ago, the church did work with VTrans and for a time no parking was allowed in these spots. Over time the markings disappeared and thus people started parking there again. Lately, there has been one car that parks so close to the entrance that it is even difficult turning into the driveway. Cars parked to the right(west) of the exit are less of an issue unless they are tractor trailers or similar size vehicles.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 6:14:03 PM

From: dthomas@gmavt.net

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: Yes, there are safety concerns caused by the busyness of the intersection and line of sight issues. At one time, parking was not allowed; that rule should be reinstated. Parking on the north side of West Main to gain quick access to the gas station is a poor option unless the driver uses the crosswalk.

Date/Time: 2/10/2023 7:01:58 PM

From: jonjkart@hotmail.com

Remove Parking? No

Message: From my admittedly limited perspective, I think those parking spaces are needed and I would prefer that they are kept. I have used those parking spaces and find them very helpful. I've never felt I was in danger when entering or exiting a car (or crossing the street there).

As a driver, I don't recall ever feeling that my ability to navigate safely through this area has been diminished by cars parked in that location.

Thank you for asking, and thank you for your efforts to make Richmond safer and more livable.

Date/Time: 2/11/2023 9:43:14 AM

From: kris_dotcom@gmavt.net

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: As a parishioner of Our Lady Of The Holy Rosary I am relieved to hear that you are considering remedying this dangerous traffic issue. When a car is parked between OLHR and Richmond Family Medicine it is nearly impossible to exit the OLHR driveway onto Route 2 because we cannot see if any vehicles are coming. I am most concerned about the spot directly next to the driveway. I welcome all Selectboard members to see for themselves how difficult this can be. If you do, it should be instantly obvious that, for the safety of all, there should not be a parking spot there.

Date/Time: 2/11/2023 1:31:34 PM

From: jeno1950@gmail.com

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I think it is a long overdue issue and it is important to the safety of those that leave the doctors' office and the church parking lot. You can not see anything as you leave the driveway, especially if a pickup or larger vehicle is parked in one of those spaces. I have had to edge out so slowly until my front end is sticking out into the road and yet, I can't see clearly if there is a car coming. Yes, yes, yes, prohibit parking for at least 3 spaces from the church driveway.

Date/Time: 2/11/2023 1:50:46 PM

From: lawler@wcvr.com

Remove Parking? No

Message: I do not support eliminating the parking places, I haven't seen evidence that benefits to doing so will outweigh the disadvantages. Fix the traffic lights, don't eliminate parking, without strong substantiation.

Where and what is the argument to eliminate the spaces? Please offer easily accessible documentation regarding expected benefits and safety issues. It is very

difficult to find pertinent information both at the Selectboard website <<https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/selectboard>> and the Front Porch Forum <https://frontporchforum.com/search?query=parking+rt+2+rt.+2+rt2&area_ids%5B%5D=107&category_ids%5B%5D=&sent_at%5Bgt%5D=2022-01-01&sent_at%5Blt%5D=&index=posts>. If nothing else, a specific searchable identifier (topic or document number, other meta data) ought to be presented.

I wasted a lot of time trying to find more information. Anecdotally, I haven't heard of serious accidents or hazards due to those parking spaces.

The parking spaces serve several business at the intersection with limited parking. Richmond Family Medicine has plenty of their own restricted parking, their entrance is one-way. Their shared egress with OLHR church access doesn't seem sufficiently dangerous to remove those parking spaces that benefit other businesses and patrons.

What most likely would happen when those spaces are removed is that RT 2W would effectively become two lanes. A west bound vehicle 1 on RT 2 west of the traffic light waiting to turn left into Cumberland Farms or Arabesque might try to let a vehicle 2 turn left in front of them out of Cumberland Farms or Arabesque, but traffic would likely pass vehicle 1 on the right creating a hazard if vehicle 2 attempts to pull out.

That is similar to the situation at the traffic light, when vehicles waiting to turn left wait for an opposite direction vehicle to also left, but vehicles behind them pass on the right and often prevent one or both of the left turning vehicles from completing their turns.

At school and commuter busy times of the day, I expect that monitoring traffic at the four corners intersection would demonstrate that when vehicles wait to turn left at the traffic light the behavior of the traffic light and inconsiderate drivers is much more dangerous than the existence of the parking spaces.

On the topic of the traffic light, it should also be programmed more intelligently during non-busy times. Very frequently, it turns red to oncoming vehicles (not speeding over the limit) when there are none waiting in the perpendicular direction. By the time it changes green for those longer waiting vehicles, traffic is

then waiting in the perpendicular direction. It forces more braking, idling, and acceleration, generating more wasted fuel and time, for no advantage. If it weren't for the laws preventing operating a camera while driving, I would provide video evidence, but I am usually unaccompanied.

Similarly, the traffic light at the I-89S exit ramp is programmed poorly. It should be able to allow better throughput, instead of, for example, turning red to stop traffic on RT 2 for maybe only one vehicle exiting I-89 which could turn right on red onto RT 2E.

Fix the traffic lights, don't eliminate parking, without strong substantiation.

Date/Time: 2/11/2023 5:06:57 PM

From: dawn.shackleton@gmail.com

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: Remove

Date/Time: 2/13/2023 7:02:44 PM

From: kthInman53@gmail.com

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I definitely am very much in favor of removing the indicated parking spaces in addition to the ones in front of the brick apt house next to Ski Express. Many times I have exited the Holy Rosary driveway and have not been able to see the oncoming traffic from the 4 corners and have come extremely close to being hit. Thank you for addressing this matter.

Kathleen Manley

Date/Time: 2/13/2023 4:01:19 PM

From: bkmanley@comcast.net

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I am in favor of removing the indicated parking spaces. When exiting the church driveway, visibility from the traffic light is extremely limited when vehicles are parked along the road. Lately, they've been parked right to the edge of the church driveway. The oncoming traffic is moving fast through the intersection and creates great difficulty in seeing it coming.

Robert Manley

Date/Time: 2/13/2023 11:48:02 AM

From: cgent@gmavt.net

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I believe that the parking spaces should be removed. They limit visibility from the side driveways (church/doctors) and add to the challenges of navigating that area in general, for cars, pedestrians, bicycles. If I recall, those parking spaces did not exist years ago because of the problems being faced once again. I know people like to park there and jay walk across to Cumberland Farms, which creates other safety problems as well. I strongly urge the Selectboard to remove the parking spaces in question. Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment. - Cathleen Gent

Date/Time: 2/13/2023 12:08:53 PM

From: c.laurita@yahoo.com

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: removing the spaces on both sides of church driveway it very dangous

Date/Time: 2/13/2023 5:26:46 PM

From: darkwingvt@gmail.com

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I am absolutely for the parking change

Date/Time: 2/14/2023 12:30:59 PM

From: cdcgigi2@gmail.com

Remove Parking? No

Message: These places are used all day while folks walk to Cumbies for a drink. I walk the area all day too, and think parking spots are essential to happy travelling.

I am ALL in favor of slowing traffic on Main in the village... Folks are nice, but any attempt to cross the road at Baker or Millet is just as dangerous as crossing in the marked area.

Date/Time: 2/15/2023 12:23:57 PM

From: martha3@gmavt.net

Remove Parking? Yes

Message: I was exiting the Richmond Family Medicine office when i almost caused a collision with a car traveling west on US Route 2. I had looked as best I could for oncoming traffic, but simply could not see this vehicle. Depending upon whether the traffic is turning right off from Brown's Trace or left onto Route 2 from Bridge street or proceeding through the stop light west there is a possibility of catching sight of some of the traffic if there is open parking spaces, but in my recent experience, after pausing and looking I thought all on coming traffic had cleared, but it had not and I did not see it until I had pulled out onto Route 2. I don't think cars should be allowed to park in front of Richmond Family Medicine.

Date/Time: 2/15/2023 6:12:10 PM

From: Cindy@Cindyfeloney.com

Remove Parking? No

Message: As a past retailer in Richmond, current commercial property owner and business person in Richmond, it is absolutely imperative to retain as many parking spaces as possible close to the central business district. There are many competing businesses that are not far away that offer much more convenient parking. In order to maintain a vital town and business district, abundant parking must be available. A vibrant town attracts residents and more businesses resulting in a better financed tax base.

The safety issue does not seem related to width of the traffic corridor through town but has more to do with the speed at which traffic is traveling. On numerous occasions I have witnessed many cars, delivery trucks and construction vehicles speeding up to make it past the red light. On one occasion I witnessed one of our local police speeding from Bridge St making a left onto West Main St and was not able to maintain control slamming into the post in front of Ski Express. Perhaps if there were more speed humps or rumble strips approaching the stop light and more traffic control at the four corners, the traffic would be more negotiable and allowing for the density of parking spaces. By allowing more parking spaces, it incorporates a passive traffic control. If you reduce parking near the light, you open up a wider "speed way." It's frightening to watch the pedestrian traffic when kids are walking down the hill after school. They depend on the light and pedestrian signals to control the vehicle traffic. It is not enough to reduce the speed of oncoming traffic in the center of town.

If the villages' concern is traffic control and safety, then parking near the light should be at least maintained at its current level NOT decreased. If driveways are blocked then we need more pro-active monitoring or police control of parking. Whatever happened to parking tickets being issued in town? Parking is a passive implementation to slowing down traffic. More traffic control whether it be passive or actively monitored is imperative to slow down the traffic and making it safer to walk and drive through the middle of the village.

Thank you for your time and consideration to not reducing parking spaces in town,

Cindy P Feloney

Feedback Receive via email. This is included in the count of “Yes” and “No” above

Mary Ann <mab@gmavt.net>Tue, Feb 14, 2023 at 2:22 PMReply-To: Mary Ann <mab@gmavt.net>

To: jarneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Dear Josh,

I want to offer some input about the parking on Route 2 in front of Richmond Family Medicine.

I go to the doctor at Richmond Family Medicine, and also use their parking lot when I volunteer at the Richmond Foot Clinic. I drop bread from Panera off at the Holy Rosary Parish Hall, and attend the Hale and Hearty Club there. On all of these occasions (but especially in the morning when I leave after dropping bread), I feel concern when trying to pull on to Route 2. I cannot see the oncoming traffic because of the parked cars, and it's really dangerous. I have given up trying to turn left onto Route 2 in the mornings; instead I go right and turn around on Millet Street. I feel I have almost collided with other cars a number of times.

Blocking off the proposed spaces would make a huge difference in improved visibility and safety.

Thank you so much for bringing my concerns to the Selectboard.

Best,

Mary Ann Barnes

Town of Richmond Selectboard Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2023

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Connie Bona, Finance Director; Allen Carpenter, Interim Water Resources Superintendent

Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Dave T, Jim Feinson, John Rankin, Karen Yaggy, Kevin McAleer, Lisa Kory, Lisa Miller, Martha Nye, Matthew Parisi, Ronald Smith

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Welcome by: Heston

Public Comment:

Heston: It is Fat Tuesday so Happy Mardi Gras. Is there any comment from the public that is not relative to tonight's agenda? Any additions or deletions to tonight's agenda?

Parisi: I've been paying attention to the Planning Commission's meetings. I was hoping to see it on this meeting's agenda with the Selectboard. When would we see the Planning Commission for the Village RC zoning updates, potentially on the Selectboard's agenda?

Arneson: I would anticipate that we'll get it on to the next Selectboard meeting, which will be March 13.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

Presentation of FY22 audit

Heston: We have a copy of the audit online. We have a representative Ron Smith. Can you just give us a brief overview and then we'll open with questions.

Smith: We appreciate the opportunity to do your audit for FY22. I'm Ron Smith, I've been doing this for 32 years, all I do is live in the world of government. I think we audit close to 100 municipalities and close to 150 municipalities in the state of Vermont and, and we audit over half of the municipalities in the state of Maine. You got our highest opinion. Some of the highlights of the audit any municipality using the national benchmark out there for financial condition is 8 to 16 to 24% of your operating budget sitting in fund balance. That's the equivalent of putting in Richmond in terms somewhere around 200,000 or 8% of your operating budget, \$400,000 at 16% and \$600,000, at 24% of your operating budget. You did a little north of \$800,000. That puts you at about 120 days of operating fund balance and I think that certainly is good for the Town of Richmond. Your general fund your grew by over \$200,000 from '21 to '22. That was largely in part to unspent expenses. Your highway fund went from \$940,000 to \$661,000

Public comment on parking on Rt. 2 near traffic signal

Heston: We got a lot of feedback, and it was very interesting to hear what people had to say. It was 17 to 5 in favor of removing the parking spots.

Forward: I did find this persuasive. I am sensitive to parking within the Commercial district of the Village. We don't currently have enough parking.

Heston: This gives us data to go to the State. We still have to get approval from the State.

Forward: I would be in favor of asking the Traffic Committee.

Yaggy: I do some Senior activities at the Church each week for the last several years. I think it became a more serious problem with a very large red pickup truck started parking just to the east of the driveway and the Doctor's driveway. With smaller cars, it was much easier.

Heston: There was a trailer attached at some point as well when that building was being worked on. I think that was what sort of raised the concern.

Yaggy: Someone wondered if that truck is a tenant?

Heston: I don't know.

Hill: As somebody who lives not far away, it probably is a tenant. It strikes me that any of the larger vehicles do create a visual obstacle. During rush hour early in the day late in the day, there is just a lot of activity. It doesn't help that some of the people tend to speed through there as well. It's probably a combination of things. I'm very reluctant to give up traffic spots and we could revisit it later if it doesn't solve the problem. I support it personally based on what I've seen, heard, and read. We should at least try removing the spots and see how that plays out.

Furr: I'd like to ask the State.

Arneson: A question just to clarify what the Board wants to request. I think currently parking happens in front of this apartment building which has been recently renovated. There's the entryway to the Doctor's office and there's room for maybe four cars. This is the driveway that's garnered lots of question because this is the exit for both the Doctor's office and the Holy Rosary Church, as well as the entrance for the Holy Rosary Church. Do you want to see a no parking from the stoplight the walkway, or maybe within 30 feet on either side of the driveway?

Heston: I think the request was just in front of the Richmond Medical and Family Health and then the apartment building. I'm wondering if we took the parking out just from in front of the Medical building, if that gives you enough of a sight line of cars coming through.

Hill: My instinct is that that is worth trying. If you think about the angles, instead of having an angle of ~80 degrees, you'd have an angle of ~130 degrees. You'd have a lot more sight line down the road there.

Heston: Some of the comments talked about when someone slows down because they want to turn into Cumberland Farms, they're going to use that no parking area to pass to go around. By keeping some parking in front of the apartment building that will avoid that. It gives some parking for the businesses.

Arneson: Essentially, nothing from driveway to driveway. We can come back with a letter; the Board can approve sending to VTrans and their traffic engineer will review that and come back with any comments. Then they'll go to their Committee, hopefully by May.

Discussion of records retention policy

Heston: The Secretary of State's Office allows for supporting financial documentation such as invoices, receipts, vouchers, etc. to be destroyed after an audit. Included in our packet is an email from the Secretary of State's office with links for more information. Josh got a sample retention policy, which I think we should be talking about. Since COVID, everything's being scanned, we have everything electronically. I don't know that we ever want to get rid of electronic files.

Forward: One challenge that I have had. The question came up as to how much money did we save by heating our high school with woodchips as opposed to fuel oil? Not so easy to document. I had to go through those files in order to get it. It would be really difficult to go through the warrants and find all of our fuel oil bills for every month over a period of time.

Arneson: You could go into NEMRC and take a look and see how much do we pay a certain fuel company. That would give you an idea, so then you can pull the invoice out of the electronic packet.

Forward: It's good practice to keep track of your fuel bills for any building. The operable number is the volume that you bought, because the rates change all the time. The only way you can get that is off the invoice. Unfortunately, fuel dealers are not required to give you that information because they're not regulated.

Heston: I think it would be the same as going into the basement and going through files. You go through and look at the invoices as you would be thumbing through a file.

Forward: If I did a Freedom of Information Act request, do you think that you could do that?

Arneson: Right now, we would be able to go back 5 years. There would actually be a file that would be for Bourne's Energy and you could pull that out. I think where it would get a little more complicated is if we had 10 years of electronic files. We'd have it sorted by meeting essentially. You could say March 15 there was a bill, you pull that up, print it out.