

**Town of Richmond
Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of July 7, 2025**

Members Present: Bard Hill, Jay Furr, David Sander, Caitlin Filkins, Adam Wood

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Gerald Levesque, Assistant Fire Chief; Matthew Cohen, Police Sgt

Others Present: MMCTV Erin Wagg, Alex Naumann, Andres Torizzo, Andrew Kovick, Bill Supple, Brendan, Cara LaBounty, Chelsye Brooks, Dan Bianchi, Daniel Wolfson, Dave Sobel, Denise Barnard, iPhone de Carmelo, Jeanann Haskin, JP, Judi Jerome, June Heston, Kristen Werner, Mary Harrison, Mary Houle, Molly Dugan, Morgan Wolaver, Nick, Noa, Paige Kaleita, Pam Foust, PK, Polly Sobel, Roger, Sarah Heim, Shannon Walters, Susan Wells, Tom Walters, Trevor Brooks, Uphil

MMCTV Video: Recorded by MMCTV by Erin Wagg
https://youtu.be/vAWHDRMo5tU?si=rO2MOG_sAc0kcV9D

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Welcome by: Furr

Public Comment:

Furr thanked all the volunteers and townspeople who made the July 4 events possible.

Houle gave the Selectboard the Conservation Commission rules and regulations to review in regard to the approved \$30,170 for the Land Trust.

Barnard provided an update on the Pickleball Courts.

LaBounty asked for another member of the Selectboard to join the Town Center Building and Campus Committee.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Thank you to the Parade and Fireworks Committee and Volunteers for the Fourth of July Celebration

Timestamp: 0:15

People who participated in discussion: Furr

Furr thanked everybody who made the July 4 festivities possible and all the hard work that went into it.

Consideration of making an appointment to the Andrews Community Forest Committee

Timestamp: 0:15

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3b1_ACFC_Dan_Wolfson_06-01-25.pdf

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3b2_ACFC_Vote_on_Appointment.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Wolfson, Houle, Hill, Wood

*Hill moved to appoint Dan Wolfson to an at large seat on the Andrews Community Forest Committee to fill a vacancy with a term ending in 2028. Wood seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

Consideration of making appointments to the Water and Sewer Commission

Timestamp: 0:18

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3c1_Wolaver_Letter_to_Serve_on_W_S_Commission_20252026.pdf

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3c2_Farr_Letter_to_Serve_on_W_S_Commission_20252026.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Hill, Sander, Filkins, Wood

Hill moved to appoint Morgan Wolaver to the Water and Sewer Commission. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

Hill moved to appoint Erin Farr to the Water and Sewer Commission. Filkins seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

Wood moved to appoint Selectboard members Bard Hill, Jay Furr, and David Sander to the Water and Sewer Commission. Filkins seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

Update on the Prehospital Analgesia Intervention (PAIN) Trial

Timestamp: 0:21

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3d_PAIN_Study.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Naumann, Wolfson, Kovick, Filkins, Hill

Naumann presented a slideshow summary of the new research study that's coming to Chittenden Count, PAIN (Pre-hospital Analgesia Intervention, to see if ketamine or fentanyl is better than the other for treating pain from traumatic injuries.

Consideration of approving the engineering plan for the Southview 3 Acre Permit

Timestamp: 0:30

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3e_1-25117-review_set_6.24.25.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arenson, Torizzo, Filkins, Hill, Walters, Heston, Kovick, Dana, Leonetti, Wood, Heim, LaBounty, Sobel

Filkins is recusing from conversation as directly affected. Torizzo summarized the previous discussions about compliance with the 3 Acre Permit rule. They completed some additional survey work on the site and learned some more specifics about the real discrete drainage patterns. The plan consists of four different chamber areas scattered around the subdivision. They are looking for approval from the Town to basically proceed with the full Notice Of Intent application submitted to the State. The Town needs to complete the application no later than October 1 in order to utilize POA funds. Torizzo claimed that Southview has disconnecting conditions on 1.39 acres of impervious surface, or area that can be classified as kind of credit.

Torizzo confirmed that last year, the Town did submit the actual Notice Of Intent with a cover letter. If the Town put forward this application, there's always the ability to add a co-permittee or make any amendments.

Walters pointed out that a stream that goes through his property is not even on the plan. Torizzo stated that he does know exactly where the stream is and the contouring on the plans reflects that stream.

Heston recommended that the Selectboard become familiar with Act 37 of 2025 (H.481) as it changes a lot of the 3 Acre Rule. There are benefits to having the Town take full responsibility for available grants. There is going to be a study on stormwater management and the creation of a regional stormwater utility district. Furr presented a summary that deadlines have been pushed out, money available, and the regulations are pretty much impossible to follow.

https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Docs/ACTS/ACT037/ACT037%20Act%20Summary.pdf?_gl=1*_ay1kgd*_ga*NjUxNTk5NDIiLjE3NDU0MjQxOTk.*_ga_V9WQH77KLW*czE3NTIwODIzMTIkbzUkZzEkdDE3NTIwODI1MDMkajYwJGwwJGgw

Kovick asked what would happen if there was no HOA and something happens to one of their houses. He does not think the catch basin at Westall Extension would catch any water on the west side of the slope. Heim asked if the engineers were going to have a meeting with the residents to talk through the plan as not having a cost estimate makes it hard to have a conversation. Hill reviewed that Greystone has a Homeowners Association so there is an implication of equity and consistency. Torizzo stated that there is not a lot of room to totally change course on the design, but there's always an opportunity to amend the permit before actually constructing anything. LaBounty stated

that Riverview Commons, which is the largest affordable housing area in the Town, also has a 3 Acre Permit so she requests a public hearing for this item only. Furr suggested a walk through with Torizzo, followed by another meeting.

Update from the Fire Department

Timestamp: 1:30

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3f_Fire_Department_To_Do_List_as_of_7-2-25.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Levesque, Arneson, Hill, Filkins

Levesque summarized it was a busy weekend, the guys are responding well to the changeover, and a great demonstration on the 4th of July. Levesque has another application today and hopefully more people will be joining soon.

Arneson and Levesque presented The Fire Department To Do List. Levesque reviewed some recruitment progress and the Junior Member Course. Levesque asked for approval to put up the recruitment banner on the Town Center lawn.

Public hearing to amend the Traffic Ordinance to reduce the speed limit on two sections of Cochran Rd.

Timestamp: 1:40

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3g1_Traffic_Ordinance_DRAFT_UPDATE_FOR_7-7-25_hearing.pdf

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3g2_Traffic_Ordinance_DRAFT_UPDATE_FOR_7-7-25_hearing_Clean.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Wood, Cohen, Arneson, Hill, Haskins, Jerome, Houle, Brendan, Hill, Filkins, Sander, Wood, Wells, LaBounty, Wagg

Furr summarized the proposal to add transitional zones at both ends of Cochran Rd for 35 miles per hour.

*Wood moved to open the public hearing to consider amendments to the Traffic Ordinance to reduce the speed limit on two sections of Cochran Rd. Sander seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

Arneson reviewed that these recommendations were based on a CCRPC Speed Study. Haskins and Jerome did not think the signs work. Houle thinks that the speed humps are very effective. Wells thinks that lowering the speed limit to 35 will be effective, even though not everybody will follow it. Arneson summarized the process of gathering the data, looking at speeds, looking at conditions, and providing a recommendation. LaBounty stated that Cochran Rd is a truck route because the Town didn't want jake brakes going through the Village. Wagg stated that the traffic does move really fast right at the end of Greystone which is also a bus stop.

198
199 *Filkins moved to close the public hearing to consider amendments to the Traffic*
200 *Ordinance to reduce the speed limit on two sections of Cochran Rd. Sander seconded.*
201 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
202

203 Furr confirmed that nobody wanted to make a motion.
204

205 **Consideration of covering domestic partners for health insurance**

206 Timestamp: 2:09
207

208 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3h1_Domestic_Partner_Policy_-_Richmond_DRAFT.pdf
209
210

211 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3h2_Affidavit_of_Domestic_Partnership.pdf
212
213

214 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3h3_Affidavit_of_Termination_of_Domestic_Partnership.pdf
215
216

217 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Hill, Sander, Houle, Wood,
218 LaBounty
219

220 Arneson summarized that VLCT provided a sample policy that outlines documentation to
221 prove that somebody's a domestic partner, as well as an affidavit that the person would
222 sign.
223

224 *Hill moved to include domestic partners of employees for health insurance benefits.*
225 *Wood seconded.*
226

227 *Hill amended his motion to include domestic partners of employees for health insurance*
228 *benefits as defined in the Policy and Employee handbook. Wood seconded.*
229 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
230
231

232 **Review of intermunicipal police agreement with Hinesburg which allows for each**
233 **police department to provide general police services and patrol police services to the**
234 **other town**

235 Timestamp: 2:16
236

237 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3i_2025_Intermunicipal_Agreement_PD_-_fully_executed.pdf
238
239

240 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Houle
241

242 Furr summarized that the Special Meeting on June 27 provided a new policy that is a
243 more reciprocal agreement for Richmond and Hinesburg.
244

245 **Update regarding no bids for the sale of the Telsa and discussion of next steps**

246 Timestamp: 2:18
247

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Cohen

Arneson stated that there were no bids for the Tesla. Cohen stated that Thomas Hirschak auction costs \$55 every time it is listed and a service fee based on the pricing of about \$300. They estimated a \$18,000-\$19,000 range. Carvana wants to give us \$22,000 for it.

Sander moved to explore to sell the Tesla to Carvana for at least \$20,000 and depositing the proceeds into the Police Reserves. Filkins seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of placing \$3,111 from the sale of the zero turn mower into the Highway Reserve Fund

Timestamp: 2:23

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Wood, LaBounty

Wood moved to deposit \$3,111 from the sale of the zero turn mower into the Highway Reserve Fund. Sander seconded.

LaBounty requested reconsidering the motion as Highway no longer does mowing we don't need to put it in the Highway Reserve Fund. LaBounty suggested using it for the Browns Court funds. Arneson stated that it was originally intended for the purchase of the next truck but the motion could be amended to put it in the Special Projects Reserve Fund which is where the ARPA money was transferred.

Wood amended the motion to deposit \$3,111 from the sale of the zero turn mower into the Special Projects Reserve Fund. Sander seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of setting the FY26 tax rate

Timestamp: 2:27

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/31_FY26_tax_rate.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Sander, Hill, LaBounty

Furr stated that this is unfortunately an increase, but they did work very hard to not have a double digit increase despite all the floods. Arneson reviewed that it was a 9.6% increase from last year but that was also due to the approval of the Appropriations and the Conservation Reserve Fund but does not include the School budget.

Sander moved to set the FY26 tax rate at \$0.5447. Hill seconded.

Sander reviewed that the actual spending went down this year even though the taxes went up. The previous year was artificially low due to using Unassigned Funds in FY25.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

298
 299 **Review code of ethics**
 300 Timestamp: 2:32
 301
 302 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3m_CodeofE](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3m_CodeofEthics_03-17-2025.pdf)
 303 [thics_03-17-2025.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3m_CodeofEthics_03-17-2025.pdf)
 304
 305 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Sander, LaBounty
 306
 307 Furr reviewed that Towns across Vermont have a mandate to have ethics policies which
 308 can be more stringent than the State model policy, but cannot be less stringent. The
 309 Selectboard voted to require all Town committee members and elected officials to
 310 comply with the code of ethics. People need to read and agree to abide by the code of
 311 ethics and complete the State ethics training which is available on the website:
 312 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/General/boards-meetings/all-committee-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/General/boards-meetings/all-committee-board-members/CodeofEthics_Training_Acknowledgement.pdf)
 313 [board-members/CodeofEthics_Training_Acknowledgement.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/General/boards-meetings/all-committee-board-members/CodeofEthics_Training_Acknowledgement.pdf)
 314
 315 Furr summarized that the policy is to get people to take a more serious look at potential
 316 conflicts of interest. If you are not sure then it's best to err on the side of thinking you've
 317 got a conflict of interest.
 318
 319 **Consideration of approving liquor licenses**
 320 Timestamp: 2:37
 321
 322 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3n1_Lucky](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3n1_LuckySpot_Liquor_License_Application.pdf)
 323 [Spot_Liquor_License_Application.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3n1_LuckySpot_Liquor_License_Application.pdf)
 324
 325 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3n2_The_Big](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3n2_The_BigSpruce_Liquor_License_Application.pdf)
 326 [Spruce_Liquor_License_Application.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/07/3n2_The_BigSpruce_Liquor_License_Application.pdf)
 327
 328 *Wood moved to approve a first-class liquor license for The Big Spruce. Sander*
 329 *seconded.*
 330 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
 331
 332 *Sander moved to approve a second-class liquor license for The Lucky Spot. Filkins*
 333 *seconded.*
 334 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
 335
 336 **Approval of Minutes, Purchase Orders, and Warrants**
 337 Timestamp: 2:40
 338
 339 **Minutes:**
 340
 341 *Wood moved to approve the draft Selectboard Minutes of 6/16/25 as presented. Sander*
 342 *seconded.*
 343 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
 344
 345 *Hill moved to approve the draft Special Selectboard Minutes of 6/27/25 as presented.*
 346 *Filkins seconded.*
 347 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Filkins in favor. Sander and Wood abstain. Motion approved.*

348
349 **Purchase Orders:**
350
351 *Sander moved to amend purchase order number 4927 to Innovative Surface Solutions for*
352 *chloride to the amount of \$19,473.98. Wood seconded.*
353 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
354
355 *Sander moved to approve purchase order number 5195 to Simpleroute for FY26 IT*
356 *services in the amount of \$19,404.00. Filkins seconded.*
357 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
358
359 *Sander moved to approve purchase order number 5266 to Catamount North Sitework for*
360 *the Tilden Ave. Stormwater Project in the amount of \$69,546. Wood seconded.*
361 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
362
363
364 **Executive Session: Evaluation of an employee**
365
366 *Wood moved to find that premature knowledge about an employee review would cause*
367 *the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Filkins seconded.*
368 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
369
370 *Wood moved that we enter into executive session to discuss an employee review under the*
371 *provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(3). Filkins seconded.*
372 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
373
374 *Sander moved to exit executive session. Filkins seconded.*
375 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Sander, Furr, Filkins, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
376
377
378 **Next Meeting Agenda**
379 -3 Acre Rule site visit follow up meeting
380 -Pickleball Courts update
381 -Tesla update
382 -Town Center Building update
383
384
385 **Adjourn**
386
387 *Hill moved to adjourn. Wood seconded.*
388 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Filkins, Sander, Furr, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
389
390 **Meeting adjourned at: 10:17 p.m.**
391
392
393 **Chat file from Zoom:**
394 00:56:55 Chelsye Brooks: Shouldn't a stream, or any surface waters for that
395 matter, be on the design? Proximity to a stream is important for design, construction, and
396 planning.

397 01:03:49 Chelsye Brooks: Act 37 also says that towns who take responsibility
398 can only collect special assessments on the users of the system if the majority of property
399 owners consent.
400
401 Meaning: if Richmond takes responsibility, they would unlikely be able to collect fees
402 unless legislation changes as I understand it.
403 01:03:51 Cara: Are the grants for the municipalities portion? Are the grants
404 guaranteed?
405 01:13:10 Chelsye Brooks: Grants are not guaranteed. As always it's first come
406 first serve.
407 01:15:20 judi jerome: are we going to get to the problems at the Jonesville end of
408 the Cochran Road tonight?
409 01:15:40 judi jerome: Multiple problems!
410 01:27:24 Chelsye Brooks: Any meeting should be open to everyone, not just
411 Southview residents, especially if talk is being thrown around about the town taking on
412 responsibility for this as I believe it will be a substantial cost spread among all residents
413 and hold greater implications if it bleeds over to ALL 3 acre sites in the Town of
414 Richmond.
415 01:33:23 Cara: I'm protentional future homer and looking to purchase a home in
416 Southview.
417 01:33:48 Brendan: Reacted to "I'm protentional fut..." with ❤️
418 01:34:18 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "I'm protentional fut..." with ❤️
419 01:43:22 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "Any meeting should b..." with 👍
420 01:54:39 Jean Haskin: Funny, when I came over the bridge today at 4:30, all cars
421 parked were off the road
422 01:56:51 Jean Haskin: No way on a 3 way stop sign
423 02:01:43 Jean Haskin: Agree with Adam
424 02:04:53 Jean Haskin: How can lowering the speed limit be effective if people
425 don't follow it?
426 02:06:28 judi jerome: Reacted to "How can lowering the..." with 👍
427 02:07:07 judi jerome: Replying to "Agree with Adam"
428
429 Early this morning and mid morning
430 02:12:20 Chelsye Brooks: I've tested the speed humps on Cochran road. The
431 speed humps are most comfortably traversed at 15-17mph.
432
433 They can however be approached at 25mph with no damage to a car, it just isn't too
434 comfortable.
435
436 I don't doubt people are flying over them faster.
437 02:14:19 Susan Wells: On what did you make that decision not to follow the
438 recommendation of the traffic study?? I just can't believe it.
439 02:14:21 Jean Haskin: Adjust the distance of the 25 mph warning sign on the
440 Jonesville end and put flags on both warning signs
441 02:17:08 Jean Haskin: I have never seen anyone flying over the speed humps and
442 I've never had anyone pass me on Cochran rd when driving the speed limit. I've lived
443 here 47 years!
444 02:24:09 Jean Haskin: Take it
445 02:25:02 Jean Haskin: Yes

446 02:40:09 Chelsye Brooks: Her interest is actually greater than any other
447 member of town so it's correct for her to recuse. Thank you for doing so.
448 02:41:07 Jean Haskin: What happens if someone doesn't sign?
449 02:51:56 Cara: request for additional SB member on Town Center committee