

1 **Town of Richmond**  
2 **Special Selectboard Meeting**  
3 **Public Information Meeting Regarding Vote**  
4 **on Stop Sign Amendment to Traffic Ordinance**  
5 **Minutes of March 31, 2026**  
6

7 **Members Present:**

8 Caitlin Filkins, Bard Hill, Greg Rabideau, David Sander  
9

10 **Absent:** Wood, Filkins arrived at 7:45 PM  
11

12 **Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Deputy Town  
13 Manager; Susanne Parent, Town Clerk; Matthew Cohen, Police Chief  
14

15 **Others Present:** Recorded by MMCTV Erin Wagg, Alyssa's iPhone, Andrew Bessette,  
16 Asta Chastain, Autumn, Bailee, Cara LaBounty, Connie van Eeghen, Dave Thomas, Erin  
17 Farr, Gretchen Paulsen, James personal iPhone, Jay Moltz, Jean Haskin, Jeanne, Jeff  
18 Wettstein, Jenna, Jessica Arendt, John Linn, Jon, Jon Kart, Logan Hegg, Mark Fausel,  
19 Marshall Paulsen, Mary Houle, Nat Merrill, patriciamiller, Polly's iPad, Rebecca, Rose's  
20 iPad, Sarah, Sarah Volinsky, Steve Bower, Susan Wells, Theodore Lyman, Toby Buxton,  
21 Tom Butler, Velma, Wil's iPhone  
22

23 **MMCTV Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/live/hpXnXIUdF58?si=KwgLjaIOxpHaaaLx>  
24

25 **Call to Order:** 7:07 PM  
26

27 **Welcome by:** Rabideau  
28

29 **Public Comment:** Rabideau summarized that this meeting is about the Ordinance itself.  
30 He wants to provide everybody with a chance to speak. Please keep remarks concise for  
31 two minutes. Once everybody has a chance to speak, he will give a second chance to  
32 those who already spoke.  
33  
34

35 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**  
36  
37

38 **Review and discuss Article 1: Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond disapprove**  
39 **of the proposed amendments to the Town of Richmond, Vermont Traffic Ordinance**  
40 **approved on January 5, 2026?**

41 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a01\\_Special](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a01_Special_Town_Meeting_Explained.pdf)  
42 [\\_Town\\_Meeting\\_Explained.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a01_Special_Town_Meeting_Explained.pdf)  
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44 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a1\\_ELECTI](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a1_ELECTION_SPECIAL_MTG_WARNING_SPRING_2026_v2_-_clean_03-13-26_-_signed.pdf)  
45 [ON SPECIAL MTG WARNING SPRING 2026 v2 - clean 03-13-26 - signed.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a1_ELECTION_SPECIAL_MTG_WARNING_SPRING_2026_v2_-_clean_03-13-26_-_signed.pdf)  
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47 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a2\\_Traffic](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a2_Traffic_Ordinance_from_hearing_on_1-5-26_pending_vote_due_to_submittal_of_petition.pdf)  
48 [Ordinance\\_from\\_hearing\\_on\\_1-5-26\\_pending\\_vote\\_due\\_to\\_submittal\\_of\\_petition.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a2_Traffic_Ordinance_from_hearing_on_1-5-26_pending_vote_due_to_submittal_of_petition.pdf)

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50 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a3\\_RTC\\_T](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a3_RTC_T_HBC_Intersection_Alternatives_Presentation_4-2024.pdf)  
51 [HBC\\_Intersection\\_Alternatives\\_Presentation\\_4-2024.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a3_RTC_T_HBC_Intersection_Alternatives_Presentation_4-2024.pdf)

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53 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a4\\_THBC\\_I](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a4_THBC_I_ntersection_Proc_Cons_Revised_3-26-2024.pdf)  
54 [ntersection\\_Proc\\_Cons\\_Revised\\_3-26-2024.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a4_THBC_I_ntersection_Proc_Cons_Revised_3-26-2024.pdf)

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56 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a5\\_FINAL](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a5_FINAL_Richmond_VHB_BridgeStreetCorridorStudy_TechnicalMemo_8-27-21-compressed_1_.pdf)  
57 [Richmond\\_VHB\\_BridgeStreetCorridorStudy\\_TechnicalMemo\\_8-27-21-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a5_FINAL_Richmond_VHB_BridgeStreetCorridorStudy_TechnicalMemo_8-27-21-compressed_1_.pdf)  
58 [compressed\\_1\\_.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a5_FINAL_Richmond_VHB_BridgeStreetCorridorStudy_TechnicalMemo_8-27-21-compressed_1_.pdf)

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60 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a6\\_Crash\\_a](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a6_Crash_and_Speed_Data.pdf)  
61 [nd\\_Speed\\_Data.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a6_Crash_and_Speed_Data.pdf)

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63 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a7\\_THBC\\_I](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a7_THBC_I_ntersection_v3.pdf)  
64 [ntersection\\_v3.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a7_THBC_I_ntersection_v3.pdf)

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66 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a8\\_Richmo](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a8_Richmond_Accidents_2012_to_2024.xls)  
67 [nd\\_Accidents\\_2012\\_to\\_2024.xls](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/03/2a8_Richmond_Accidents_2012_to_2024.xls)

68  
69 Rabideau reviewed the history of the January 5<sup>th</sup> Selectboard’s amendment to the Traffic  
70 Ordinance. Rabideau summarized that if the majority vote “YES” then the amendment  
71 will be disapproved and the stop signs would not be installed. A “NO” vote would mean  
72 the stop signs would be installed. Rabideau stated that the Selectboard was looking at  
73 several options, some of which cost hundreds of 1000s of dollars. The notion was to try,  
74 on a temporary basis, putting in a four way stop to see if it helped the problem. Rabideau  
75 read the changes in the Ordinance.

76  
77 Houle stated that at the proposed stop sign at Huntington Rd, there is not a receiving  
78 sidewalk there or down Thompson Rd. Houle is not in favor of the stop signs. Houle  
79 observed that 3 of the documented accidents were on Cochran Rd where there already is  
80 a stop sign and the other one happened in the marked crosswalk on Bridge St. Hill  
81 observed that State Statute obligates drivers to stop for pedestrians in any intersection  
82 regardless of a stop sign.

83  
84 Haskin stated that the stop signs would create a mess with traffic and preferred the  
85 previous suggestions of putting in a blinking crosswalk. The stop signs would create  
86 more issues than it would solve.

87  
88 Arneson read the chat from Toby Buxton: “What are the means and methods established  
89 by the Selectboard to determine if this effort is a success? Or a failure?” Hill summarized

90 that the Police Chief has baseline data on the speed of cars going through the intersection  
91 with is a baseline to see if the speed changes with stop signs. Hill stated that public  
92 feedback is also an important consideration. Sander stated that the Selectboard was  
93 seeking feedback for 30, 60, 90 days to see people's impression of the effectiveness.  
94 Rabideau confirmed that the Chief of Police and Town Highway Foreman will keep an  
95 eye on the intersection and see how it goes. Hill stated that looking at baseline speed data  
96 will be some objective evidence. The traffic engineers suggested that the Town do  
97 something at this intersection because it's not as safe as currently configured. Buxton  
98 observed that there are other intersections in Town like this one. Buxton stated that they  
99 ought to understand the means and methods to determine whether it's a success or a  
100 failure and whether we have to look at something different. Rabideau summarized that  
101 the packet includes crash data analysis and extensive traffic studies conducted as part of  
102 the civil engineering process.

103

104 Harding supports the Selectboard's decision to put in stop signs. Harding summarized  
105 that she drives through that intersection frequently and it feels very dangerous. She  
106 doesn't think anybody can measure her increased comfort from driving through that  
107 intersection once they put up stop signs.

108

109 Arendt stated that putting in the stop signs is not going to have the desired effect for the  
110 data on the speed at that intersection. The stop signs bring all traffic (~5,400 vehicles per  
111 day) to a complete stop 24/7, in the winter and in the dark. Arendt observed that there are  
112 two crosswalks within 100 yards, one up Bridge St and the other up Huntington Rd, each  
113 of which offer an opportunity to cross at a much safer place. Removing the crossing at  
114 the difficult intersection would be a good solution that would not cost anything. Arendt  
115 stated that the four-way stop does not improve the intersection for pedestrians. Knowing  
116 how they are going to assess the efficacy of this move would be of much interest to her.  
117 Hill reiterated that pedestrians have the right of way at the intersection, and they cannot  
118 circumvent or overrule State Statute.

119

120 Bessette stated that he is in favor of the stop signs because it is the least expensive option  
121 and he wants to see if it does help. Bessette stated that he often waits a long time trying  
122 to pull out from Cochran Rd due to the steady stream of cars. Rabideau confirmed that  
123 the Selectboard heard testimony about the inability of residents on Thompson and  
124 Cochran Rd to get into the traffic stream.

125

126 Wells stated that the speed bumps on Cochran Rd do not slow down traffic going through  
127 the intersection as they put on their brakes right before the speed bumps. Wells  
128 summarized traffic studies that state this is a dangerous intersection because there is no  
129 turning lane. Wells stated that the traffic experts did not recommend flashing crosswalks  
130 because of the speed and volume of traffic going through the intersection.

131

132 Farr stated that if the stop signs do not go in then they should do a better job of marking

133 that intersection.

134

135 Arneson read the chat from Autumn: “Hello, would the panel tell us whether installation  
136 of a pedestrian crosswalk signal (such as one in front of the library) was considered? The  
137 kind where the pedestrian pushes a button and lights flash for drivers. If so, would they  
138 tell us the pros and cons of this as an option to increase pedestrian safety at this curve?”

139 Hill recalled that the Regional Planning Commission does not suggest too many active  
140 crosswalks near each other because then people tend to ignore them.

141

142 Fausel stated that the safety numbers do not have any accidents at that intersection and  
143 asked if they should be putting stop signs at Governor Peck or Fay’s Corner. The speed  
144 limit is going to be reduced because everybody has to come to a complete stop. Fausel  
145 suggested putting another crosswalk on the other side of the Round Church on Cochran  
146 Rd. Fausel stated that the Town has not painted a single stripe up at the intersection.

147 Fausel suggested putting an arrow that showed the road turns towards Huntington.

148 Fausel stated that the voters should disapprove of the Ordinance and vote “YES” to not  
149 put in the stop signs. Rabideau reviewed that putting in the four-way stop was one of the  
150 options presented by the civil engineers who studied this issue.

151

152 Volinsky suggested using the Police force at that intersection to deal with the concerns  
153 about speed. Volinsky stated that the intersection is missing some markings in the road  
154 that might make it clearer. Volinsky observed that Thompson Rd and Cochran Rd have  
155 two other outlets. As an environmentalist, she does not think it makes sense to stop 5,000  
156 cars a day for 20 walkers a day. The complete stop is bad for the environment and would  
157 create a ton of noise. Volinsky encouraged everyone to vote “YES” against the stop  
158 signs.

159

160 LaBounty requested a display of the ballot to see how people would comprehend how a  
161 “YES” vote means no stop sign. Parent summarized that the ballot is displayed over at  
162 the Town Clerk’s Office. Parent showed a card that people will see in the voting booth:

163 NO Vote = Yes, I want Stop Signs

164 YES Vote = No, I do not want Stop Signs

165 (I disapprove of the new stop sign ordinance)

166

167 LaBounty stated that one of the options for improving the intersection was to do nothing  
168 but improve signage and enforcement. LaBounty stated that if the signage is still not  
169 improved and white stripes are not maintained on the ground then they have fallen short  
170 promises that occurred over the past three years. LaBounty summarized that the cheapest  
171 thing is to maintain what they have and enforce the current speeds. LaBounty observed  
172 that there are currently three flashing signs on Bridge St in the same speed zone as this  
173 intersection. LaBounty stated that enforcement is one way to solve the problem and  
174 wants to know the number of tickets that have been written at that intersection within the  
175 past 10 years.

176

177 Arneson confirmed that if the stop signs were installed there would be a communication  
178 plan through electronic methods and renting the flashing boards that alert people a stop  
179 sign will be coming up. There would be Stop Sign Ahead signs with yellow flashing  
180 light and a Stop sign with red flashing lights. It would cost about \$3,300 including the  
181 message boards for a week.

182

183 Arneson confirmed that Highway paints the stop bars and crosswalks every spring but  
184 tends to get worn out throughout the winter. Sander confirmed that Highway trimmed  
185 the bush back around the existing signs.

186

187 Hegg stated that the problem at the intersection is a false premise. The data from the  
188 traffic study showed it is a problem but the data from the State does not suggest an actual  
189 problem. Hegg observed that the number of signs already there would make it a mess,  
190 more confusing, and ugly. Hegg stated how other people mentioned pollution and traffic,  
191 so they are better off without stop signs and disapproving of this.

192

193 Haskins stated that all last summer, the crosswalks were not painted to make it visible for  
194 people to cross the road. Haskins felt the Selectboard reacted to a lot of emails and calls  
195 to approve the stop signs. Haskins stated that she is disapproving this amendment.

196

197 Filkins stated that the Selectboard's decision to make the stop signs happen was a  
198 temporary measure and to test it was a means to take a step forward.

199

200 Kart stated that the issues with that corner emanated from a 2010 report. Kart  
201 summarized that the Transportation Committee heard issues from community members  
202 whether they were driving or walking or being near that intersection. One of the reasons  
203 the Selectboard voted to do this project was to address not just pedestrian issues, but  
204 driver issues. Kart stated that he appreciates the opportunity to test out this idea and see  
205 if it works.

206

207 Linn stated his desk faces Huntington Rd and he feels like there is a lot of fast traffic.  
208 Linn observed that more than 50% of the vehicles going by are above the speed limit.  
209 Linn stated that he supports the stop sign as a calming measure. There are more cyclists  
210 in the summertime and cars are doubling the speed limit. Linn stated that the stop signs  
211 are the most cost effective and least impactful way.

212

213 Moltz stated he lives at the corner of the intersection, so he is very familiar with  
214 excessive speed. Moltz observed that the crosswalks are painted every spring but might  
215 be done more frequently. Moltz stated that there is a daycare on Thompson Rd and a lot  
216 of foot traffic when the weather gets nicer. Moltz stated that it is a huge opportunity that  
217 he is willing to try even though it will make the air and noise around his house much  
218 worse.

219

220 Sander summarized how changing the Traffic Ordinance as it was amended gives the  
221 Selectboard the option to put the stop signs in, but it doesn't compel them to put the stop  
222 signs in. It gives the Selectboard authorization to try it and if it doesn't work, they are not  
223 committed. Filkins confirmed that the Selectboard would have both qualitative and  
224 quantitative data that they would look at to determine a means of success.

225

226 Wagg stated that she has been listening to these conversations for years and thinks it is a  
227 good idea to test this out. Wagg summarized that she is also in favor of the Selectboard  
228 taking these stop signs out again quickly if it proves to be trouble.

229

230 Rabideau thanked everybody for participating. Rabideau summarized that a "NO" vote  
231 means you want the stop signs. A "YES" vote means you do not want the stop signs. The  
232 Ordinance does not require that the Selectboard put these stop signs in, but it does  
233 authorize them do so. Parent and Filkins confirmed that early voting is in the Town  
234 Office Mon-Thu 8 AM – 4 PM and Fri 8 AM – Noon.

235

236

237 **Adjourn**

238

239 *Filkins moved to adjourn. Hill seconded.*

240 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

241

242 **Meeting adjourned at: 8:55 PM**

243

244 **Chat file from Zoom:**

245 00:32:18 Toby Buxton: What are the means and methods established by the  
246 Selectboard to determine if this effort is a success? Or a failure?

247 00:32:40 Autumn: Hello, would the panel tell us whether installation of a  
248 pedestrian crosswalk signal (such as one in front of the library) was considered? The kind  
249 where the pedestrian pushes a button and lights flash for drivers. If so, would they tell us  
250 the pros and cons of this as an option to increase pedestrian safety at this curve?

251 00:34:19 Cara: can we please see a copy of the ballot?

252 00:35:30 Autumn: Replying to "Hello, would the pan..."

253

254 I understand that this meeting is not for identifying alternatives, but the answer to this  
255 would impact my vote.

256 00:37:26 Toby Buxton: So data will be gathered? Will that information be  
257 published?

258 00:38:56 Jeanne:What about traffic pile up on school day mornings? This will make  
259 it worse.

260 00:40:32 Jeanne:Reacted to "Hello, would the pan..." with 👍

261 00:41:36 Jean Haskin: Obviously stop signs will reduce speed!,

262 00:47:09 John Linn, AIA: Replying to "Hello, would the pan..."  
263  
264 The cost estimate from the Richmond Transportation Committee for the crossing flashers  
265 lists the cost at \$6.4k per unit. Installation is called out as \$20-\$30k at each location. I'm  
266 assuming those would be needed at each of the 4 locations that pedestrians cross for  
267 visibility purposes (you wouldn't be able to see the flashers if they were around the  
268 corner). I think that means it's a \$125k proposal.  
269 00:51:28 Jeanne: Reacted to "The cost estimate fr..." with 🙄  
270 00:56:45 Autumn: Replying to "Hello, would the pan..."  
271  
272 Thank you  
273 00:57:43 Jean Haskin: So I guess the blinking light crosswalks must not be safe on  
274 Bridge street!  
275 01:08:23 Jean Haskin: Mark the crosswalks and put up crosswalk signs first, then  
276 talk about stop signs  
277 01:17:37 Jean Haskin: We've had police coverage  
278 01:17:40 Chief Matthew Cohen: I just signed on. I can work on grabbing a  
279 rough estimate of enforcement over last 10 years in about 15 minutes  
280 01:22:09 Toby Buxton: Flashing lights on the stop signs? That will improve the  
281 character of the neighborhood?  
282 01:25:45 Asta Chastain: Replying to "Flashing lights on the stop signs? That will  
283 improve the character of the neighborhood?"  
284  
285 Yes, it will. Improved safety for all is an improvement to character.  
286 01:29:28 Toby Buxton: Replying to "Flashing lights on t..."  
287  
288 Wait till the out of town bicyclists ride on the side walks so they don't have to wait in  
289 traffic at the stop signs. That will not improve safety.  
290 01:30:30 Chief Matthew Cohen: What I was able to locate quickly for  
291 enforcement data that goes back to 2018 to today. It shows 84 enforcement actions across  
292 all law enforcement agencies for stop sign violations across the entire town.  
293 01:30:48 Asta Chastain: I absolutely agree markings are crucial. My question is how  
294 many months of the year are road markings visible? There needs to be more done (stop  
295 signs) to also help during the large portion of the year that road markings aren't visible.  
296 01:33:46 Cara: Please post again on FPF with the simple message 4-way stop sign  
297 voting is open now at the Town Clerk's office.  
298 01:34:11 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "Please post again on..." with 👍  
299 01:34:43 Asta Chastain: Reacted to "Please post again on FPF with the simple  
300 message 4-way stop sign voting is open now at the Town Clerk's office." with 👍  
301 01:34:55 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "What I was able to l..." with 👍  
302 01:35:15 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "Flashing lights on t..." with 😞  
303 01:35:56 Jean Haskin: Replying to "Flashing lights on t..."  
304 Wouldn't you love to live near those blinking lights

305 01:41:54 Jeanne:Josh, please read comment from Chief.  
306 01:44:33 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "Josh, please read co..." with 👍  
307 01:47:16 Jean Haskin: Replying to "Hello, would the pan..."  
308 The board needs to have documented stop sign test criteria as success or failure  
309 01:48:13 Jean Haskin: Replying to "Hello, would the pan..."  
310 What are negative effects criteria?  
311 01:51:36 Jean Haskin: Replying to "Hello, would the pan..."  
312 Speed hump will slow down speeders  
313 02:00:10 Jean Haskin: If people go weirdly fast thru that intersection why don't  
314 the police park there?  
315 02:00:39 Jean Haskin: How many speeding tickets are issued there  
316 02:03:31 Jean Haskin: Please post voting hours on FPF  
317 02:04:41 Toby Buxton: Thank you for your time.  
318 02:04:51 Asta Chastain: Reacted to "Thank you for your time." with 👍  
319