

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Selectboard Meeting**
3 **Minutes of July 15, 2024**
4

5 **Members Present:** Adam Wood, Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Lisa Miller
6

7 **Absent:** None
8

9 **Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town
10 Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Tyler Machia, Zoning Administrator; Peter
11 Gosselin, Highway Foreman; Steve Cote, Water Resources
12

13 **Others Present:** Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Alicia DiCocco, Amy Wardwell,
14 Brian Daub, Cathy Aikman, Connie van Eeghen, Danny Peet, David Reisman, Eric
15 Berliner, Erin Farr, Gary Bressor, Jacqueline Daub, Kath Burns, Mary Houle, Marybeth
16 Berliner, Michael Storrs, Michael Denis, Nicole Davis, Shay DiCocco, Stefani
17 Hartsfield, Timothy Gray, Wright Preston
18

19 **MMCTV Video:** <https://youtu.be/tAobdVFqeo0?si=E0PRYXGfcE89tp2p>
20

21 **Call to Order:** 7:01 pm
22

23 **Welcome by:** Sander
24

25 **Public Comment:**
26

27 Sander summarized that they have been running way over time the last few meetings and
28 to remind everybody to wait to be recognized before you speak and limit comments to 3
29 minutes or less.
30

31 Sander stated it was a fantastic Fourth of July celebration. Sander summarized that flood
32 number four in the last calendar year is part of the budgeting for FY25 as the Town needs
33 to lay out that money for these events.
34

35 Furr reviewed the MMCTV is looking at getting condenser mics for the room corners but
36 chiming in from the back is coming across as mumbles.
37

38 Houle requested picking up the gravel that's going down the river. Houle stated Item e) is
39 not appropriate for Executive Session.
40

41 Farr requested a future agenda item concerning the Town resources for evacuating people
42 for a flood with this amount of fast water.
43

44 **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:**

45 Timestamp: 0:04
46

47 Arneson summarized that the Round Church Women's Run will not occur this Saturday
48 due to the flood conditions.

49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

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

Timestamp: 0:05

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

Arneson thanked the Fourth of July Committee for putting on a great celebration and on their second year as a committee and after a two year pause due to COVID.

Labounty requested not putting all the fire trucks back-to-back and suggested that other Town send one truck and set up at Volunteers Green.

Furr reviewed the danger factor of people throwing candy in the streets and little kids scrambling under the wheels. Furr reviewed that they simply have no volunteers and something that they need to reiterate. Sander reviewed his experiences trying to see in front of the truck and it is very scary.

Update on flood recovery

Timestamp: 0:09

People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Furr, SDiCocco, Hill, Houle, Daub, Wood, Houle, LaBounty, Burns, Machia, Davis, ADiCocco

Arneson thanked the Town staff that worked on the flood response and highlighted the preparation and response by the Highway, Fire and Water/Sewer Departments. Arneson reviewed that Zoning Administrator, Tyler Machia, has been getting information and visiting many damaged homes so reach out to the Zoning Department for a substantial damage evaluation which is important for future claims. Arneson stated that any private property damage should call 211 (<https://vermont211.org>) and report the damage as there could be a FEMA claim for the Town. Arneson thanked Susan Whitman for setting up a form again to organize volunteers. Furr reviewed that it's going to be a lot more than it was last year to absorb into the budget or they might have to take out a loan before any FEMA reimbursements.

SDiCocco provided an update on Lily Pond Circle, Oneil Dr, Red Barn Ln and part of Rt 2 with a community that needs help. SDiCocco stated that there are 10 homes that are cut off from a road that are using a makeshift path. Hill asked that the conversations include what is in the public right of way versus private roads. SDiCocco stated that 911 was not very helpful. SDiCocco stated that the work done on public road Snipe Ireland Rd to fix the culverts significantly raised the level of water that came into their neighborhood, and nobody checked on the downstream people. SDiCocco stated that there was numerous issues up Snipe Ireland Brook that really affected people where the water landed. SDiCocco reviewed when Rt 2 was reconstructed last year it was built 2-feet higher and created a giant pool.

99 Hill summarized that the Selectboard does not contemplate addressing failures in private
100 roads because it also sets precedent for every private road failure forward forever which
101 is the conversation with their attorney and VLCT. Sander reviewed that legally they
102 cannot take any action tonight, because it is not in the warned agenda. Arneson stated
103 that he did not want to say there was an impact of water that is the responsibility of the
104 Town as it would bear more investigation as the contractor and Highway Foreman, Pete
105 Gosselin, confirmed that there was water going across the road, so they put it back the
106 way it had been. Houle stated that the Town doesn't own the water, it is an act of God
107 and once the Town accepts work on a private road, it's ownership.
108

109 LaBounty stated that she has experience with FEMA since 2011 and does not find legal
110 precedents for the Town to take responsibility. LaBounty reviewed the areas that could
111 help the most would be State funding that is available funding that matches FEMA
112 funding, the 211 reporting is very important.
113

114 Burns stated that it seems like a source of funding would figure out how to work with the
115 State because they've actually created millions of dollars of damage. Sander confirmed
116 that there is a storied history of Town losses due to State infrastructure, Richmond has
117 asked for retribution and assistance, and it's gotten nowhere. Hill reviewed his
118 experiences with the Regional Planning Commission and it's easier to get funding for the
119 engineering of a project than it is for the construction of a project. Hill suggested calling
120 Congress representatives to ask for support staff. LaBounty suggested that the
121 Selectboard create a flood recovery committee to help assist private residence and
122 prepare for public recovery actions.
123

124 Machia stated that FEMA as a general rule doesn't cover driveways or private roads but
125 the last disaster there were certain exceptions if it was the only access on to the property,
126 but it is unique to specific disasters. Machia reviewed that he is working on the Special
127 Flood Hazard Overlay district and doing substantial damage or improvement
128 determinations.
129

130 Arneson reviewed that many brooks look totally different, lots of material everywhere,
131 and it's changed course so he reached out to the Department of Environmental
132 Conservation from Vermont to ask for guidance and will pass it along. Arneson
133 reviewed the FEMA buyout and elevation project options and suggested people contact
134 him if they are interested. LaBounty also reviewed the home relocation option for higher
135 ground.
136

137 Furr presented the current Go Fund Me option at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/build-a-passable-bridge-on-oneil-dr-community-of-10-homes>
138

139
140 SDiCocco stated that they need to figure out with the State how to manage Snipe Ireland
141 Brook because it blew out in multiple places. Machia reviewed that for things that exist in
142 the Flood Hazard Overlay district, you wouldn't necessarily need a permit to repair it
143 provided that it's built to the standards that was originally approved with that Drive. Hill
144 suggested that the Regional Planning Commission does have engineers that deal with
145 combination of things, including roads and stormwater. ADiCocco encouraged the
146 Selectboard to mail out a postcard or something that points to a website or the stuff that
147 was talked about.

148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196

Sander confirmed that this will be on the agenda for the August 5th meeting.

Consideration of approval of Eagle Scout Project to install a flag deposit box at the Town Center

Timestamp: 1:17

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3c_Eagle_Presentation.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Dennis, Miller, Hill, Wood, LaBounty

Dennis reviewed his plan to put a simple plywood box somewhere in the Town for the collection of old, worn out, or otherwise unusable American flags. Dennis confirmed that they will get a bronze plaque that says it is for flags. Furr stated that some people put Town documents into the Sharps box and vice versa. Arneson wondered how much space there is and suggested using the lobby on the 2nd floor of the Town Center. LaBounty suggested painting a flag and having a clear display opening.

Furr moved that they grant Eagle Scout candidate, Michael Dennis, the go ahead to construct a flag deposit box, preferably on the 2nd floor of the Town Center. Wood seconded.

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

Consideration of making an appointment to the Town Center and Library Buildings Committee

Timestamp: 1:27

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3d_Mike_Storrs_letter_of_interest.pdf

People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Wood, Miller, Storrs

Wood summarized Storrs previous experiences with the Committee.

Miller moved to appoint Mike Storrs to the Town Center and Library Buildings Committee. Wood seconded.

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

Discussion of a request to develop a Town owned strip of land off of Mary Dr. to rural road standards, possible executive session

Timestamp: 1:30

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e1_To the Town of Richmond Select board.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e1_To_the_Town_of_Richmond_Select_board.pdf)

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e2_1109 - PL1 Boundary Plat - Signed.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e2_1109_-_PL1_Boundary_Plat_-_Signed.pdf)

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e3_town approval.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e3_town_approval.pdf)

197

198 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e4_DRB_de](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e4_DRB_decision_10-22-12.pdf)
199 [cision_10-22-12.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e4_DRB_decision_10-22-12.pdf)

200

201 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e5_Peet_De](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e5_Peet_Deed_1993.pdf)
202 [ed_1993.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3e5_Peet_Deed_1993.pdf)

203

204 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Wood, Peet, Miller, Hill,
205 Machia, Furr, LaBounty, Bressor

206

207 Arneson reviewed the request and the complicating factor that the Town owns this land
208 and there are three options: not develop the land, allow any people to develop the land at
209 their own cost to develop and maintain, or sell the land. Peet summarized the
210 subdivisions up there over 30 years ago and illustrated in the packet. Machia reviewed
211 that it gets tricky when the DRB approved this subdivision for Lot 12. Machia stated that
212 a private driveway that serves four houses automatically triggers a rural road state that
213 has to be built to road specifications. Furr suggested setting up the legal framework to
214 deed it over. LaBounty stated that land was deeded to the Town of Richmond as a
215 payment or asset for future expansion of roads.

216

217 *Furr moved that the Selectboard pursue the option of conveying the land for whatever*
218 *price and leave the rest to the attorneys for future review. Wood seconded.*

219 *Roll call vote follows discussion.*

220

221 Machia reviewed that there's a caveat that prior to the development of Lot 12, they had to
222 come back the DRB to get Lot 12 established as a building lot and it needs to have access
223 built to the rural roads' specifications. Machia summarized that because the Town owns
224 the property, Peet can't apply to do the work on a property that he doesn't own. Arneson
225 confirmed that it's sold with easements that are baked into the sale for the existing laws
226 that have access rights now to make sure that's all legally sound. LaBounty asked if they
227 would be hindering future development by selling the existing road. Arneson
228 summarized conversation with the attorney that it could be structured so the Town retains
229 it, Peet pays to improve it, and then has a maintenance agreement that it's his
230 responsibility in perpetuity.

231

232 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

233

234 Machia reviewed that both the DRB and the Selectboard have to approve waivers to the
235 rural road specifications.

236

237 **Consideration of asking Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and**
238 **VTrans to conduct a traffic safety audit a Fays Corners**

239 Timestamp: 2:22

240

241 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Furr, Arneson, Miller, LaBounty

242

243 Sander reviewed that there are a lot of issues at Fays Corners that include the most
244 structurally deficient bridge in the town of Richmond that will have to be replaced soon.
245 Sander summarized that proper solution would involve moving Hinesburg Rd, replacing
246 the bridge, mitigating flood, and reengineering the intersection. Arneson stated that the

247 audit would do what they can with the existing geometry of the intersection for quick
248 fixes.
249
250 *Furr moved to purse asking CCRPC for the road safety audit and consider applying to*
251 *the scoping study at a later date. Miller seconded.*
252 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
253
254 Arneson confirmed he would contact the property owner at that intersection to see if there
255 was interest in selling the property to the Town.
256
257 **Update on Bridge St. corridor traffic calming measures**
258 Timestamp: 2:27
259
260 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson
261
262 Arneson stated that Highway got a couple of Stop bars painted before the flood started
263 but id now on hold as they address major washouts.
264
265 **Consideration of approval of an agreement with VTrans for a parking area near the**
266 **intersection of Rt. 2 and Johnnie Brook Rd.**
267 Timestamp: 0:03
268 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3h_2024-06-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3h_2024-06-28_-_Johnnie_Brook_Draft_OA_v1_-_clean.pdf)
269 [28 - Johnnie Brook Draft OA v1 - clean.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3h_2024-06-28_-_Johnnie_Brook_Draft_OA_v1_-_clean.pdf)
270
271 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Miller, LaBounty
272
273 Arneson reviewed the lot on Johnny Brook Rd and after doing this for three years, the
274 State came back for a 5-year agreement with the Town. Arneson summarized that the
275 parking area is maintained by the Town but if a giant flood comes through and something
276 blows out in the swale it's not the Town's problem.
277
278 *Miller moved to approve the agreement with VTrans for Public Parking at Checker*
279 *House/Johnnie Brook Road. Hill seconded.*
280 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*
281
282 **Follow up on ad hoc committee to explore funding options for a recreation path**
283 **from the Village to Riverview Commons**
284 Timestamp: 2:34
285
286 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Bressor
287
288 Arneson reviewed that they did some outreach but have not gotten any responses yet.
289 Bressor stated that he will reach out to a shortlist of people. Bressor suggested reducing
290 number of members in order to sustain a quorum.
291
292 **Consideration of approval of liquor licenses**
293 Timestamp: 2:36
294 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3j_Liquor Li](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3j_Liquor_Licenses.pdf)
295 [censes.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3j_Liquor_Licenses.pdf)

296 Hill moved to approve first- and third-class liquor licenses for VT Fine doing business as
297 Kitchen Table. Furr seconded.

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

299

300 Hill moved to approve second class liquor licenses for William Donovan doing business
301 as Lucky Spot Variety. Furr seconded.

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

303

304 **Consideration of accepting Grant in Aid grant to fund municipal road stormwater**
305 **improvements**

306 Timestamp: 2:38

307 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3k_GA0872_RichmondTownof.pdf

309

310 Furr moved to accept the \$20,000 grant from the Grant in Aid Program. Hill seconded.

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

312

313 **Consideration of accepting Class 2 Roadway grant for paving**

314 Timestamp: 2:39

315 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3l_P02218_RichmondTownof.pdf

317

318 Miller moved to accept the \$200,000 Class 2 Roadway grant. Hill seconded.

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

320

321 **Consideration of approval of agreement with East Engineering for engineering**
322 **services for repair to Dugway Rd. from July 2023 flooding**

323 Timestamp: 2:40

324 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3m1_P2024_Richmond - Dugway Road Improvements 2024-06-27.pdf

326

327 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3m2_006-30_Richmond FEMA Contract 1 Dugway Road PCE 2024-06-11.pdf

329

330 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3m3_CEF_Curve A B.pdf

332

333 Furr moved to enter into an agreement with East Engineering for engineering services
334 for the repair of damages to Dugway Rd. caused by the July 2023 flooding at an amount
335 not to exceed \$35,000 with consideration that this cost may increase for work related to
336 Right of Way, Easement, and FEMA Assistance will be billed at an hourly rate of \$125
337 per hour as needed. Miller seconded.

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

339

340 **Richmond Rescue FY24 Q4 update**

341 Timestamp: 2:42

342 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/07/3n_Richmond_Rescue_FY24_Q4_update.pdf

344

345 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Furr, LaBounty, Wood

346

347 Furr stated much praise for Richmond Rescue's stellar job as it's an independent agency
348 and they get much better service than Towns that pay for their rescue service.

349

350 **Approval of Minutes, Purchase Orders, Warrants**

351

352 **Minutes:**

353

354 *Wood moved to approve the Minutes of 7/1/24 as presented. Hill seconded.*

355 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

356

357 **Purchase Orders:** None

358

359 **Warrants:**

360

361 *Furr moved to approve the general warrants on 7/15/24 as presented. Miller seconded.*

362 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

363

364 **Next Meeting Agenda**

365 *Storm damage follow-up

366 *Microphones

367 *Dugway Rd parking

368

369 **Adjourn**

370

371 *Furr moved to adjourn. Wood seconded.*

372 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

373

374 **Meeting adjourned at:** 9:53 pm

375

376 **Chat file from Zoom:**

377 01:06:06 Jay Furr: [https://www.gofundme.com/f/build-a-passable-bridge-on-](https://www.gofundme.com/f/build-a-passable-bridge-on-oneil-dr-community-of-10-homes)
378 [oneil-dr-community-of-10-homes](https://www.gofundme.com/f/build-a-passable-bridge-on-oneil-dr-community-of-10-homes)

379 02:09:32 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Please include the affected residents of
380 Mary Drive in the next steps of the development of property "K". Connie van Eeghen
381 and Steve Forman ("L")

382 02:26:10 MMCTV Erin: Take map down?

383