

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

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

7 **Absent:** None  
8

9 **Staff Present:** Town Manager Josh Arneson; Assistant to the Town Manager Duncan  
10 Wardwell; Town Clerk Linda Parent.  
11

12 **Others Present:** MMCTV Erin Wagg, MMCTV Angelike Contis, Judy Rosovsky, Ian  
13 Bender, Trevor Brooks, Rebecca Connell, Bruce LaBounty Cara LaBounty, Susannah  
14 Zeveloff, Wright Preston.  
15

16 **MMCTV Video:** Recorded by MMCTV by Erin Wagg  
17 <https://youtu.be/qbKCLJmRtbw?si=EhMvEZNxSaZO1U48>  
18

19 **Call to Order:** 7:00 pm  
20

21 **Welcome by:** Sander  
22

23 **Public Comment:**

24 LaBounty read a letter she had written criticizing Selectboard members and Town  
25 employees for how they treat members of the community who criticize or raise concerns,  
26 including herself. Furr apologized for interrupting LaBounty during the last Special  
27 Selectboard meeting regarding tax increases. Sander added that people are dealing with a  
28 lot of personal issues that can lead to lack of composure on everyone's part, and he asked  
29 that everyone have compassion for one another.

30 **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:**

31 Timestamp: 0:04  
32

33 Wood proposed to add a discussion about the recent break-ins and crime. Sander  
34 concurred and said that Richmond is not the only town with increased crimes of  
35 opportunity. Hill added that he has spoken to Chief Cambridge who shared that other  
36 towns, such as Huntington, Starksboro, Bolton, and Hinesburg are experiencing similar  
37 issues. This is germane to a budget discussion and Police Department hires. Chief  
38 Cambridge will be making a more public statement. Furr wondered if there was a  
39 neighborhood watch program in Richmond. Miller reminded people of "if you see  
40 something, say something." Hill continued that it's wise to set up a camera for security  
41 but to make sure it has a cloud storage option or other remote capabilities. Miller added  
42 that it isn't possible to have enough police on the street to avoid these types of crimes.  
43 Bender wondered if there were statistics for these crimes. Sander said this needs to be  
44 answered by Chief Cambridge. A resident from Tilden Ave stated that she feels  
45 Richmond needs to have a police officer on staff in the evenings, driving around, making  
46 a presence. She added that perhaps adding cameras to some intersections in Town could  
47 help. Wood added that this is a huge shift in thinking about security for some people, who  
48 aren't used to locking their home or car.  
49

50 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**

51

52 **Reminder of the Monday, December 9, 2024 Special Selectboard meeting for**  
53 **discussion of the FY26 Budget**

54 Timestamp: 0:05

55

56 Arneson emphasized that the next budget meeting will be an important one. And that he  
57 has added another budget meeting for Dec. 17, 2024 at 7 p.m. if need be.

58

59 **Reminder of the Tuesday, December 3, 2024 public meeting for the kickoff of the**  
60 **Flooding Mitigation Scoping Study**

61 Timestamp: 0:26

62

63 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson

64

65 Arneson reminded people that this is a meeting asking for public engagement regarding  
66 what can be done regarding flood mitigation.

67

68

69 **Consideration of making an appointment to the Conservation Commission**

70 Timestamp: 0:27

71

72 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/11/3c\\_RCCSusannahZeveloff11-17-24.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/11/3c_RCCSusannahZeveloff11-17-24.pdf)

73

74 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Rosovsky, Zeveloff

75

76 Rosovsky introduced Susannah who feels she is a perfect fit for the Conservation  
77 Commission appointment. She introduced herself and said that she has been working  
78 with Huntington as well as RCC to start talking about flood mitigation efforts, such as  
79 planting trees in flood prone areas. She is very passionate about this type of work. Miller  
80 thanked Susannah for volunteering.

81

82  
83 *Furr moved to appoint Susannah Zeveloff to the Conservation Commission to fill a*  
84 *vacant seat with a term running to 2028. Hill seconded.*

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

86

87

88 **Consideration of making an appointment to the Planning Commission**

89 Timestamp: 0:33

90

91 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/11/3d\\_Planning](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/11/3d_PlanningCommission-RebeccaConnell.pdf)  
92 [Commission - Rebecca Connell.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/11/3d_PlanningCommission-RebeccaConnell.pdf)

93

94 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Rebecca Connell

95

96 Connell states that she wants this appointment and divulged that she has lived in Asia and  
97 therefore brings a new perspective in terms of urban living and she is passionate about  
98 the housing crisis in Vermont. She has recently moved to Richmond. Miller asked

99 regarding her PMP\* and she said that she passed her PMP\* exam approximately four  
100 years ago. \*PMP – project, planning and management.

101

102 *Miller moved to appoint Rebecca Connell to the Planning Commission to fill a seat with*  
103 *a term running to 2027. Wood seconded.*

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

105

106

107 **Consideration of approving an easement for VELCO for Andrews Community**  
108 **Forest (ACF)**

109 Timestamp: 0:38

110

111 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/11/3e\\_Finalized](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/11/3e_Finalized)  
112 [\\_ACF\\_Access\\_Easement\\_2\\_.pdf](#)

113

114 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Preston, Hill, Miller, Arneson

115

116 Preston explained that Vermont Electric Power Supply (VEPS) and Green Mountain  
117 Power (GMP) have parallel utility easements that were granted in the 1920s, running east  
118 and west through ACF. Those easements allow them to access their property any way  
119 they want. VEPS updated the center access point, around 2,500 feet, and had a bridge  
120 installed, which they have since removed. ACF committee attempted to have VEPS  
121 remove the abutments to the removed bridge, which they refused, but they have installed  
122 a fence and they are proposing to cut the Town a check for \$11,000. Preston would like  
123 to propose that this money go into the ACF Land Trust. Hill asked that the language of  
124 this deal be changed due to the outdated language use; he also asked what the current  
125 ACF budget is. Miller added that lawyers seldom want to change legalese in such  
126 documents. Arneson informed the board that his name was on the document to sign on  
127 behalf of the Town and asked if that was acceptable. Arneson said that the current  
128 balance of the ACF budget is \$29,501, so \$11,000 would be a significant jump in their  
129 coffers.

130

131 *Wood moved to approve the easement for VELCO for access to the power lines located in*  
132 *the Andrews Community Forest which includes payments by VELCO to the Town of a*  
133 *\$2,500 maintenance payment and an \$8,549.45 easement payment, to be deposited into*  
134 *the Andrews Community Forest Reserve Fund. Arneson will be the Town representative*  
135 *to sign these documents, and preferably amending “to know all men by these presence”*  
136 *to something more modern and gender neutral. Hill seconded.*

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

138

139

140 **Consideration of approving the Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks Committee to**  
141 **hold a coin drop on Saturday, May 24, 2025**

142 Timestamp: 0:48

143

144 *Hill moved to approve the Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks Committee to hold a*  
145 *coin drop at the intersection of Rt. 2 and Bridge St. on Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 8am*  
146 *to 3pm. Miller seconded.*

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

148

149

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

151 Timestamp: 1:49

152

153 **Minutes:**

154

155 *Wood moved to approve the draft Minutes of 11/25/24 as presented. Hill seconded.*

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

157

158 Wood mentioned that “these are some of the driest minutes I have ever reviewed.”

159

160 *Furr moved to approve the draft Minutes of 11/18/24 as presented. Hill seconded.*

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

162

163 **Motions for Purchase Orders:**

164

165 *Wood moved to amend Purchase Order number 4950 to Hinesburg Sand for material for*  
166 *emergency road repairs to the amount of \$115,022.56. Hill seconded.*

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

168

169 *Wood moved to approve Purchase Order number 5084 to Lafayette Highway Specialties*  
170 *for guardrails for emergency flood repair in the amount to not exceed \$13,371.50. Hill*  
171 *seconded.*

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

173

174 *Miller moved to approve Purchase Order number 5154 to Stone Environmental for a*  
175 *flood mitigation study in the amount of \$124,766, which is not paid for by the tax-payers.*  
176 *Hill seconded.*

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

178

179

180 **Warrants:**

181

182 *Wood moved to approve the Warrants as presented and amended. Miller seconded.*

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

184

185

186 **Next Meeting Agenda**

187 Invite Chief Cambridge in to discuss crime trends and statistics and actions the Town can  
188 take and perhaps arrange a neighborhood watch program

189 Firearm safety

190 Fire department staffing

191

192 **Adjourn**

193

194 *Wood moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*

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

196

197

198 **Meeting adjourned at: 8:09 pm**

199

200 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

201