

Richmond Planning Board Meeting
Town Hall
Minutes
March 9, 2020

Members present: Richard Bell, Douglas Bruce, John Hanson (Chairman), Katherine Keenum, Peter Lopez

Mr. Hanson opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

1. The first item on the agenda, an ANR application, was deferred indefinitely because Peter Nikitas of Foresight had told Mr. Hanson that the project had been put on hold.
2. Mr. Bell moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020, with modification. Mr. Bell seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 5-0.
3. In a wide-ranging discussion of a possible Master Plan or Vision for Richmond, Mr. Hanson recommended thinking in terms of ten pages (not including appendices, charts, etc.) to cover ten topics. As preliminary examples for what might be covered, he suggested municipal facilities, economic development, housing, the school, transportation, open space and land preservation, and forest management in that order of priority.

Mr. Bell recommended including the nine areas required in an official Master Plan. He said that the new document could point to existing papers, e.g., the Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2016–2022, available on line at the Town of Richmond website.

Mr. Bruce said that recommendations should be concrete. A report could also include simple statements like “No action required at this time” where appropriate.

Mr. Lopez proposed beginning by defining what assets define the town and then asking whether the town is managing them to be effective or can there be improvements. He offered as categories (a) the physical assets, i.e., land, people, homes, shared spaces including roads and buildings; (b) the health and security of people in the community; and (c) the education of children and adults.

Mr. Bruce said that he liked the term “assets” and suggested as an action item that members go home and prepare a list of those that they believe characterize Richmond. Without a formal vote, members agreed.

Before closing the meeting, Mr. Hanson said the Board should be prepared for the possibility that public meetings would be discouraged during the COVID-19 emergency and he was inclined to cancel the meeting scheduled for April 13, 2020, unless something specific like at ANR was submitted and required action.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Keenum, Clerk