

**Town Center Committee  
Minutes for the Meeting of November 17, 2023**

This meeting was held at 12:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room in the Merrimack Town Hall:

**Present:** Nelson Disco (chairman), Leo Laviolette, Deputy Director, Public Works (for Dawn Tuomala), Bill Wilkes, and Karen Contos

**Absent:** Finlay Rothhaus, Matthew Shevenell, Nicholas Lavallee, and Karen Freed

**Minute Taker:** Karen Contos

**Approval of October 20, 2023, Minutes**

**MOTION:** Bill made a motion to approve the minutes and Nelson seconded it. Approve as presented.

**Vote:** 3-0-1, Bill abstained.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Groundbreaking of Souhegan River Trail**

Nelson was pleased to have a large group show up for the groundbreaking.

Nelson asked about the status of the trail to date. Leo reported that things are progressing nicely, on schedule. The contractor's schedule shows summer as the completion date but that is dependent on winter weather. Public Works as well as Beta, the Construction Engineer, is taking photos of the progress. Both Dawn and Leo are keeping an eye on the project. Leo mentioned that the river had changed since the last survey in 2014 and so the trail's location was adjusted slightly.

Bill asked if the river would change over time and Leo said not likely. Nelson also asked if any blasting had to be done and no was the answer there as well. Karen asked what happens to the trail in a large storm. Leo mentioned the trail had drainage attached to help with this.

**Review of Town Center Priority List and Cost Estimates**

Nelson discussed Priority 4 of the list and noted that apartment houses are being built at the south end of the Tractor Supply parking lot. The contractor is building a sidewalk, but not all the way to the end of the Twin Bridge Park Trail.

(Approximately 350 feet) Perhaps the committee would like to change the priority of that item, to complete the sidewalk. Bill asked if an agreement with the

developer for them to pave would be the cheapest alternative. Nelson will contact the developer through Paul Micali.

### **School Master Plan Status**

See Addendum below.

### **Status of TCC Facebook and Town Center Videotaping**

Nick was absent, out sick, so no update was delivered.

### **Status of Route 3/Wire Road & Baboosic Brook Bridge**

Leo reported that they had a recent meeting with the state but he was not sure of the start date of the project. Nelson asked if the stop sign versus signal light was decided. Leo replied not yet.

### **NEW BUSINESS –**

#### **Subjects for TCC Annual Report to the Town**

Nelson has a draft and will share it with us via email. He still needs to speak to Matt regarding O’Gara Drive and Nick regarding videotaping. Bill recommended that Nelson highlight what will be happening in the next two years. Karen recommended thanking all organizations that helped over the last year including the Nashua Regional Planning Commission.

Karen also asked regarding the upcoming Master Plan update, if the Town Center Committee is involved. Nelson said the committee would be involved.

#### **Public Comments- NONE**

**Adjournment –MOTION:** Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0-0**

#### **Addendum-School Master Plan Status:**

Matt walked in just after the meeting had adjourned. He was in a school district meeting. He commented on the School Board’s decision to change their first building priority to the proposed Central Office building, where the red building was torn down. They are going to ask VHB to redo the (priority two) traffic plan

taking account of the Central Office building project. The school district's goals are to go to the voters and propose the building of a central office in 2024 and then go back to the voters in 2025 for the traffic plan, which includes the O'Gara sidewalks.

Leo asked Matt if some panels and beams required for the Souhegan Trail project be stored on the high school site where the central office building is proposed. The site is fenced in, which would be perfect to help safeguard the materials. Matt will check with the Superintendent; however, the building might commence in Spring before the Souhegan Trail is completed.

**Next Meeting-** Next regular TCC Meeting is either Jan. 19 or 26, 2023 depending on member availability.