

Approved: May 15, 2015

TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:03.

Present: Nelson Disco, Peter and Jackie Flood, Karen Freed, Mary Hendricks, Bill Wilkes. **Absent:** Davis Powell, Finlay Rothhaus

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of February 27 were approved with one spelling error corrected.

Old Business: Safe Routes to School: Report delayed.

The TAP grant was awarded to Merrimack. It will be used to construct a trail under the Chamberlain Bridge across the sluiceway to connect Watson Park with the trail system.

- The next step is on May 14 when the Town Council will vote to accept the grant and to expend the town's matching funds, which will be less money than the town would have spent repairing the safety issue of the sidewalk over the Bridge.
- After that, the Executive Council must accept it also.
- It will be turned over to Tom Jamison, the state coordinator.

The Town will probably solicit bids through the Department of Public Works.

In 2019 the new intersection of Wire Road and D. W. Highway is scheduled.
Next year, a new bridge on McGaw Bridge Rd. is scheduled to be built.

Sign for Merrill's Marauders: Karen reported that the similar sign in Watson Park is 32" x 42" across. Despite a lot of text, it does not look crowded. We agreed that the new sign will be the same size as the Watson Park sign and will move forward with that. Nelson has a mock-up with a QR code on it.

Bronze Plaque: Nelson found out through Deb Huffman that the bronze sign ordered by Pennichuck at the time of the dam removal is in the Town Manager's office. We should think about where it should be. Bill thinks we should put it on or near the Chamberlain Bridge, perhaps mounted on one of the 8 stone blocks that are in Watson Park. Mounting the sign might be paid out of the trail fund.

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Fields Pond Foundation: Funds are available for grants: historical and art projects, community based land and conservation projects. Proposals may be submitted any time for projects from \$500 - \$25,000, most around \$2000, in New England and New York State. Lelia said that maybe a grant might pay for both signs' installations. Nelson will ask Lelia to continue with researching grants. He will ask Kyle about wrapping the sign into the TAP grant.

Other Projects for Consideration, 2015: Nelson thinks it would be good to have a new map. Peter has been conferring with NRPC to do a trail map for us, in a poster format, for the library and to move it around town for public outreach at events. Peter will follow through with the map. The work of a drone camera operated by a local man would be free for us.

2017 TAP Projects: Nelson thinks that we should be thinking about the TAP funding for other projects like the sidewalk down Woodbury St. We would need matching funds and estimates of cost. Nelson will look at the SRTS program to make sure it's still viable. Peter said that we concentrated on the ¼ mile O'Gara sidewalk, and he would like to add Woodbury St. to it. There are rules about the town maintaining and plowing sidewalks. Bill and Peter spoke on the value of an offset sidewalk with tall curbing for safety.

Public Outreach: Jackie will see about a presence at the Farmers' Market and 4th of July exposure. Bob Best will be heading up the Midway. Karen has manned the library booth at both the Midway and Expo; she could do both the library and the Town Center map for at least awhile. Jackie also updated the committee on Art in the Park: even though the intent was to plan for 2016, an opportunity might have come for this year, since the Manchester Artists Association is interesting in holding its annual show in Merrimack this year, either on the 3rd or the 4th Saturday in September. If it would be the 4th Saturday, it would be part of the Expo.

State Land: The State will probably give us the land they own near the Merrill's Marauders Bridge in the summer of 2016, after they finish the mitigation for the widening of the turnpike.

Next Meeting: May 15, noon.

We adjourned at 1:16.