

Approved: May 20, 2016

**Town Center Committee
Minutes of April 22, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05.

Present: Nelson Disco, Bill Wilkes, Peter Flood, Dawn Cote, Mary Hendricks, Jackie Flood. **Excused:** Karen Freed
Special guest was introduced: Bill Cummings

Minutes of March 25: Correction: "consultant" to replace "state." Minutes were then approved.

Old Business:

TAP Grant: Our projects are ready to be funded, but it has no money in hand so we might have to wait until 2018 for it.

Sign: Nelson met with Joe Herlihy to examine the brackets to hold the sign at the Souhegan River Trail bridge. It is a heavier sign than anticipated; Joe thinks it needs bigger brackets. Originally the sign was meant to hang outside the chain link fence, but it might have to hang inside.

Safe Routes to School: Dawn agreed to ask the school when the paving to the school would begin. The answer was 2017
– 2018. The Capital Improvement Plan is to be discussed in August and September of this year. The discussion will include having sidewalks or not. Nelson asked Dawn to try to keep Safe Routes to School alive or reinvigorated. The SRTS program could fund the sidewalk, but the Capital Improvement Project also needs School Board approval. Peter pointed out that Woodbury St. also needs a sidewalk. O’Gara Drive belongs to the school; Woodbury belongs to the town, although the south side is school property. Dawn will look into the ending of School Street: is it School St. or merely the school parking lot? Simultaneous sidewalk and road would be best.

Chamber/Small Business Grant: hasn’t been awarded yet, but we are still in the running for it. It would pay for the sidewalk which would join the high school with the businesses along D.W. Highway.

Status of Wire Road Intersection:

Nelson thinks we should get out ahead of the Wire Rd. design. It’s not a simple thing; Nelson has copies of a booklet put out by the NRPC, "Complete Streets".

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Concord, Nashua, Portsmouth and Dover have been involved in it. It has to do with aesthetics as well as sidewalks. We need good ideas to give Kyle Fox.

Discussion of Ideas for the Design of Wire Rd. Intersection:

Currently, some of the businesses along DW Highway are not interesting to pedestrians, such as the four gas stations and other repair shops. K Stores bought Mobil "On the Run" stores. Walgreens wants to buy Rite Aid. We don't have any control over what happens, especially when it's a big corporation out of town. We discussed the roundabout: the plus is that it moves traffic well; the minus is that it will be more difficult for pedestrians. When the traffic moves quickly in the roundabout, more cars can be stopped at the 2 lights north and south of there.

Other New Business:

The regional bicycle and pedestrian plan from the NRPC is a guideline for towns and cities to follow for their own uses. There are already bicycle routes on maps to start; eventually we could plan bike lanes on those routes defined by painted lanes. Nelson will send us the link. He also said that Chief Mark Doyle gave a presentation of highway safety, but made no mention pedestrian safety.

Farmers Market: They have been at the Adult Community Center for the winter. We will attend with our maps and brochures in the summer.

Art in the Park: The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 at Watson Park.

Public Comment:

Bill Cummings told us that he walks through our downtown area nearly every day. He's interested in sidewalks on O'Gara Dr. He is intrigued by the Community Centers being built in Ontario. He's on the Library Development Committee and would like a community center/ library to use by everyone. He would like to join the Town Center Committee. Bill Wilkes asked him, if there were any particularly dangerous places we should know. Bill Cummings said the Chamberlain Bridge crossing, Woodbury St., and the Baboosic Lake Rd. overpass in the winter. He thinks he can offer us some ideas.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2016.

Adjourn: Bill Wilkes motioned, Mary seconded, all were in favor.