

Town Center Committee

Minutes of July 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 12:05.

Present: Nelson Disco, Peter Flood, Mary Hendricks, Karen Freed, Bill Cummings, Jackie Flood and Matt Shevenell representing the SAU.

Excused: Bill Wilkes, Dawn Cote, Finlay Rothhaus.

Dawn Cote has stepped down and is working on getting a permanent representative from the School Department.

Minutes were approved with Bill Cummings abstaining.

Old Business:

Status of TAP award and Public Hearing results: Nelson et al. A “Local Concerns hearing” for the Souhegan River Trail took place on June 30, run by Quantum Construction Consultants, Inc., the firm who has been chosen to lead the project. An Alternate Route was brought up by Quantum as part of the procedure required. The Alternate route would take the trail north on D W Highway and across the road near Woodbury Street, then south to Watson Park. Hearing attendees were against this plan and in favor of the sluiceway route under the Chamberlain Bridge. Nelson suggested some signage along the trail directing people to the various paths and destinations. The hearing resulted in 100% support for the project using the sluiceway route, with each person at the hearing speaking on a different aspect of the positive effects of the new trail. Karen Freed pointed out that it was not too late to submit a letter of support. Peter suggested submitting letters from the police and fire department also, which Nelson had done. Other letters submitted: George May from the Souhegan River committee, the Historical Society, the Police Department, and Heritage Commission; the Conservation Commission will also write one.

Safe Routes to School – status and plans: Nelson will make a presentation to the School Board on July 18. Matt reported that the NRPC put together a Travel Plan 5 years ago. He will ask Mr. Kirkland from the State if the plan is still okay. In Matt’s opinion, a sidewalk on Woodbury St. would be a good safety upgrade.

A 13-year-old bicyclist was hit by a car at the corner of DWH and Church St. He had broken bones from the accident. It was noted that the TCC has

recommended that the Town Council discontinue the Church St./Rte. 3 connection. Karen suggested it might be included in the Wire Rd. plan.

Presentation to the Highway Safety Committee: Nelson made a presentation to the Highway Safety Committee on June 7 with a request for more emphasis on pedestrian and bike traffic.

HEAL New Hampshire/Complete Streets Projects Training Nelson reported on the Complete Streets program being developed for Nashua and other NH cities. It involves assigning a level of stress experienced by cyclists and pedestrians in different areas; NH cities and places all over the US have begun to use the program. The leaders put on a presentation encouraging cities and towns to consider all users of the streets and sidewalks in their planning. This planning could be used here. HealNH.org's program encourages healthy eating and living as well as walking and biking. Nelson hopes to get leaders from the organization to talk to our leaders. Peter brought up "Walkable Streets" as a good read.

Other new business:

Other projects for consideration: NRPC Bike/Ped Plan: status: NRPC regional bicycle plan runs up Route 3 from Nashua to Manchester, and also along Continental Blvd. to Pennichuck Sq. The planning board is planning to request the NRPC to inventory pedestrian and bicycle conditions along these routes.

Public Outreach: Jackie reported that the committee will set up at the Farmers' Market on July 20, Aug. 3 and Sept 21 from 3 – 6. We will display our trail map and hand out flyers.

A large map of the Souhegan River Trail is now up in the anteroom of the Memorial Room at the town hall, installed by Peter Flood.

Public Comment:

Bill Cummings offered to help resuscitate the Safe Routes to School program. Matt would like him to be in contact.

We agreed that the next meeting would be held on Aug. 12. Bill C. moved to adjourn, Mary Hendricks seconded; all were in favor.