

**Merrimack Town Center Committee
Minutes Feb. 10, 2017**

Call to order: 12:05

Present: Nelson Disco, Peter Flood, Bill Wilkes, Bill Cummings, Matt Shevenell, Mary Hendricks, Karen Freed, Jackie Flood

Minutes: Approved with 3 abstentions: Mary Hendricks, Bill Wilkes, Matt Shevenell.

Old Business:

Status of the Souhegan River Trail: Nelson reported that the cultural value and impact of the River trail project will be examined. The State of NH will be in charge. Quantum Engineering will be presenting the project on our behalf, along with Kyle and Dawn.

Status of 2016 TAP Grant Application: Its next stop is to the Governor and the Executive Council for approval.

Status of Courthouse-Route 3 Sidewalk: Peter and Bill W. have been working on this project, raising money and examining project materials. Curved granite steps are recommended laid out in a curved pattern, each curb partially placed in grass, with grass instead of brick behind it. The curves are of very small radii. The walkway will be easy to care for and can be mowed easily – less work to install and less expensive. Peter and Bill W. have talked to Ward Gleason and to O’Keefe Landscaping to get a sense of the cost and installation of the project. Eileen Cabanel wants Kyle Fox to estimate the cost; Peter and Bill W. will take it to Kyle, and his estimate will be part of the Council presentation. The walkway in front of the Town Hall has bricks that have sunk a bit; this new walk will not have this problem. The project will be introduced to the Rotary Board of directors for them to decide if they will help financially.

Status of Merrimack TV presentation: This program will be a public reaching out to introduce the viewers to this committee and its mission. We will also be encouraging more public involvement with our committee and its projects.

Peter, Nelson and Bill Cummings will meet with Justin Slez following this meeting to discuss this presentation.

Status of O’Gara Drive: Matt Shevenell reported that there will be a warrant article from the School Board asking for a new pavement. The School will revisit the sidewalk to be beside the driveway in the budget year 2018/19. The sidewalk is still in the Capital Improvement Budget (CIB); the Board thinks the sidewalk is a good idea, but will defer the project.

Matt continued to say that one good thing about applying for grants is that it shows that the town has an interest in the project, not just the committee or an individual. A school project does not qualify for the TAP grant; there is no more aid to schools on the state level. Our School District has a building and planning committee that is studying a site for a new administration building to be at the site that now has a deteriorated tennis court and a skateboard park, and is near gas sewer and water

Membership: We will continue to be alert for prospective new members. We could use one more if there is a prospect who would fit well.

Other New Business:

Winter Carnival and Winter Farmers Market: Winter Carnival is on Feb. 25. Bill, Mary and Nelson will be there with Peter and Jackie. We will hand out the map brochures and have the big map there for inspection by the public.

We will have a table at the Farmers Market, planned for Feb. 15, and staffed by Peter, Jackie and Karen.

Map Handout/Brochure: We want a brochure of the ITRAC. NRPC made the original map and would have the ability to shrink it. Sara Siskovitch might be able to reduce it to 8 ½ x 11. Mary will oversee the map for another brochure.

Next Meeting:

March 24 at noon in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Adjourn: 1:09. Bill Cummings moved, Jackie seconded, all in favor.