

**Town Center Committee**  
**Minutes of September 23, 2016**

Attendance:

Karen Freed, Nelson Disco, Matt Shevenell, Bill Wilkes, Bill Cummings, and Finlay Rothhaus. Excused: Jackie and Peter Flood.

Reviewed minutes of August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Some changes to be made re: SRTS. Matt Shevenell was the party in question when the minutes say “he explained”.

Rotary meeting of 9/22 – Bill Wilkes said it was received well. He said we still needed to do something on the trail system development. Maybe get parks & rec involved to discuss parks & other open spaces. Karen suggested maybe the map in the Merrimack Journal? Can see the fencing from the highway.

Nelson – maybe get the EdCAC committee involved with our committee.

October 5<sup>th</sup> is STRS day. Matt will talk with the MES and JMUES principals about this, and will let Nelson know.

CIP presented to the school board and O’Gara Drive sidewalk is included for 2017-18. Nelson’s question to Matt: Would it be worthwhile for us to come to the school board?

Discussion and appeal for new members.

Art in the Park – Watson Park – tents down in the back. Attendance was rather light. Some paintings were sold. Bill Wilkes thinks publicity for this has been poor. In Keene, the park gets filled-up with lots of signs around town. Karen said Jackie approached Manchester Arts Association and was left with the impression this was not our responsibility.

Finlay Rothhaus joined the meeting.

Booth for the Merrimack Business Expo - Jackie and Peter will setup. Bill Wilkes will, too. Maps are available. Both Karen, Nelson, and Bill Cummings are out of town that day.

Changeable signs for the expo: check with the town manager’s office. Draws attention to the center of town. Finlay will talk with them.

For more maps, see Kristin Wardiner – secretary to Eileen Cabanel.

Annual briefing to the Town Council is October 13<sup>th</sup>. Souhegan River trail and what's going on there. Public hearing upcoming in October. SRTS update. Sign on the footbridge honoring Merrill and his marauders.

Bill Wilkes wondered about the sluiceway. Has to do the TAP grant. We don't have anything from them.

Other activities we're involved with:

Farmers' Markets, presentations to the Highway Safety Committee, School Board, Rotary Club of Merrimack.

Looking to do Woodbury Street sidewalk, which is included. Very expensive project due to drainage.

Plans for 2017:

Outreach for public awareness – perhaps Community TV?

Complete Streets project – methodology to include motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Nelson attended some of the briefings in Nashua, and thinks there are things that may apply to Merrimack.

State of NH legislature – highway planning might include Complete Streets in their planning. Other towns involved with Complete Streets: Nashua, Manchester, and Swanzey. Karen pointed out that most of these have well developed downtowns.

Nelson has approached Bob Best, chair of the planning board about, perhaps, having them come to give us a briefing about it.

Nelson will ask Town Council for a capital reserve fund for the Town Center committee.

Moving forward:

Next meeting: Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Meeting after that Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Let's look at the map and get everyone's input at our next meeting. Can we connect the Gazebo and DW Hwy? It's been a #1 priority, but it would come at the expense of the town. We need to get it into the capital plan.

Can we get some interest in the ED CAC?

Bill Wilkes – motion to adjourn, Bill Cummings 2<sup>nd</sup>. 6-0.