

**Approved: February 14, 2020**

**Town Center Committee  
Minutes October 18, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 PM.

**Present:** Nelson Disco, Bill Cummings, Karen Freed, Matt Shevenell

**Absent:** Peter Flood, Bill Wilkes,

**Minutes** Nelson distributed Jackie Flood's minutes from our previous meeting dated August 23, 2019. We had a discussion remembering her as an active important member of the community and long-term member of this committee. Bill Cummings moved to accept the August 23, 2019 minutes and Karen Freed seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

**Old Business:**

Status of Souhegan River Trail : The State has been moving very slowly and they are two months behind. Quantum Engineering is doing a second survey and is in the process of finalizing this plan. Within three days of this meeting we learned that the Governor's Council is developing a 10 year plan showing that the Souhegan River Trail is scheduled for construction in 2024. The Town Council and Town Manager are sending letters requesting that the project be completed as scheduled.

Status of the Planning Board Survey – April 10: The NRPC and the planning board are in discussions about building sidewalks from Bedford to Nashua along Route 3. This is part of the TCC Master Plan. The Town Council is now supporting this initiative and the NRPC is continuing to develop this plan. The decision has been made by the Town Council and the TCC to approve this, despite the fact that the State has not yet addressed this proposal. Final language is now being developed.

Additions for the TCC on the Town Web Site: Bill Cummings will be meeting with Becky Thompson today regarding updates from the TCC to be posted on the Merrimack Town Website.

Walk to School Day : Matt Shevenell reported on this October 2<sup>nd</sup> event. Rick Grenier, PE teacher at JMUES organizes this yearly, and there was great participation by parents, teachers, students, and members of the police

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and fire departments to walk the ½ mile course before school started that day.

TCC Vacancies: The Town Center Committee is now down five members from a fully staffed committee. Nelson will present this to the Town Council during his annual report on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **New Business:**

Study for development of School District property: Matt Shevenell presented a possible project for the recently purchased “Brentwood” property. There has been much discussion about the old school building on the property as far as whether to renovate or replace. The District administration is considering hiring an engineer to create a campus, not just for the school but for community use, as well. Central Office is considering adding money to the 2020-2021 budget for a feasibility study of this project.

School teachers/students project, Video Souhegan River Trail: Bill Cummings has been working with the high school to have two students participate in a “before” and “after” video of the development of the Souhegan River Trail. Scheduling when videographers are available and possible poison ivy on the trail are factors holding up the “before” video. Now that the scheduling of funding by the State may be put off, the timing of the video is flexible.

Additions for the TCC on the Town Website: Bill Cummings is continuing discussions with the Town Manager’s office to publish updated TCC news on a dedicated page of the Town Website.

Other projects to consider for 2019

Bill Cummings suggested that the TCC use the Town Facebook Page and social media to attract Merrimack citizens with tech ability. He will check with the MHS tech department faculty and possibly attract a student who could then apply for service hours.

Additional TV Presentations: tabled

Discussion of possible development of Longa property – On hold. New engineers are on the project.

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Annual Report to the Town Council: October 23, Nelson Disco. The committee discussed the outline of Nelson's presentation. Chamberlain Road now has sidewalks for pedestrians.

Other Projects to consider for 2019:

The TCC will set up an informational table with our big poster map and brochures of Town maps during the Turkey Shoot on November 21. The display will be manned by Nelson Disco and/or any other volunteers. Set up will be after 5:00 PM at the Merrimack High School cafeteria.

**Public Comment** – none

**Next Meeting** – December 6 at 12:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room.

**Adjournment** – Karen Freed moved to adjourn and Bill Cummings seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.