

Approved: February 14, 2020

**Town Center Committee
Minutes December 6, 2019**

The meeting was held in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room and called to order at 12:03 PM.

Present: Nelson Disco, Karen Freed, Matt Shevenell, Finlay Rothhaus

Absent: Peter Flood, Bill Wilkes

Special Guest: Kyle Fox

Minutes Approval of the Minutes from our meeting of October 18, 2019 was postponed to our next meeting on February 14, 2020.

Special Guest

The Committee welcomed Kyle Fox, Director of Public Works to the committee. Following the presentation of the TCC Annual Report to the Town Council on October 23 and the recommendation of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Inter-modal Transportation (GATIC) to postpone the construction of the Souhegan River Trail from 2020 to 2024, the Merrimack Town Council and Town Manager have agreed to put some projects recommended by the NRPC iTRAC Study into the Town Budget. Kyle Fox has been asked by the Town to nominate a list of five \$200,000 projects which are part of the iTrac Plan and which could be implemented over 5 years. The first project listed is the sidewalk on the south side of Woodbury Street. Kyle Fox will now become a member of the TCC as a liaison between the TCC and the Public Works Department (PWD) and a change to our charter is scheduled for discussion at the Town Council Meeting of 9 January. Also, Liaison to the EDCAC which is now disbanded will be removed from the TCC charge.

Old Business:

Status of the Planning Board NRPC Study: The NRPC Study for Sidewalk Planning along Route 3 has been completed and will be made part of the Town Master Plan by the Planning Board in December. This study identified several critical areas of special need for sidewalks along the Route 3 corridor in addition to the Town Center areas. It is expected that the Planning Board may also look at other areas in Town with high stress levels for pedestrians.

Status of Souhegan River Trail : As noted above, progress on the Souhegan River Trail has been very slow. Transportation Assistance Program (TAP)

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Grant award was made in 2015 and now construction has been moved to start in 2024. No responses have been received to the Town's pleas to NHDOT for sooner scheduling. Plans for Student Video Taping of the Souhegan River Trail have been put on "hold".

Results of the Turkey Shoot: The TCC had an information booth at the Merrimack Public Library Turkey Shoot held on November 21. This booth was visited by many Town citizens and many brochures were distributed. All feedback received at the booth was positive in favor of building more sidewalks in Town.

Additions for the TCC on the Town Web Site: Bill Cummings was absent from today's meeting and we have no report from him at this meeting.

O'Gara Drive Sidewalk: Matt Shevenell reported that the O'Gara Drive repaving and sidewalk will not be constructed in 2020 as previously planned. The School Board now plans to budget for a consultant to create a Master Plan in 2020 with public input for the School properties in the High School and JMUES areas. Nelson Disco and Kyle Fox expressed interest in participating in this planning.

TCC Vacancies: The Town Center Committee is still short five members from a fully staffed committee.

New Business:

As noted above, the Town Council will consider a change to the TCC charge to include Public Works Membership on January 9, 2020.

Nelson Disco will prepare the Annual Report for the TCC to be included in the Town Annual Report. Draft will be circulated for Committee review.

The Committee will perhaps have a booth at the Winter Carnival in February

School teachers/students project, Video Souhegan River Trail: Bill Cummings had been working with the high school to have two students create 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 were factors holding up the "before" video. Now that the scheduling of funding by the State has been delayed, the video work will be rescheduled for a future time.

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Discussion of other projects to consider for 2020 and Additional TV Presentations: tabled

Public Comment – none

Next Meeting – February 14, 2020 at 12:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Adjournment – Finlay Rothaus moved and Matt Shevenal seconded to adjourn, 12:45 pm. Approved 3-0-0.