

**Town Center Committee**  
**Minutes for the Meeting of February 14, 2020**

The meeting was held in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room and called to order at 12:05 PM.

**Present:** Nelson Disco, Karen Freed, Matt Shevenell, Finlay Rothhaus, Bill Wilkes, Kyle Fox

**Absent:** Peter Flood

**Minute Taker:** Karen Freed was appointed the minute taker for this meeting.

**Minutes** Approval of the Minutes from the TCC meeting of October 18 was moved by Bill Cummings seconded by Finlay Rothhaus, approved 4-0-3. Minutes of December 6, 2019 were approved with corrections 5-0-2 on a motion by Kyle Fox, seconded by Finlay Rothhaus.

**Old Business:**

Revised Membership for the TCC Nelson noted that the TCC Charge has been amended by the Merrimack Town Council to now include the Merrimack Public Works Department. Kyle Fox is the DPW representative to the TCC.

Status of Souhegan River Trail : As noted in December, progress on the Souhegan River Trail has been greatly slowed down. Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Grant award was made in 2015 and now construction has been moved to start in 2024. Kyle Fox reported to the Committee that the design of the Trail by Quantum Engineering is continuing and will be prepared to an “on the shelf” condition, in the event that some project ahead of ours in the waiting list for funds needs to be deferred or rescheduled. Kyle brought a set of preliminary Design Plans for the Trail which were reviewed by the Committee following the meeting. Suggestions offered by the Committee were to include access to the Fire Station and Buckley’s Restaurant from Watson Park via the Trail. Design is expected to be completed by end of 2020. It was also requested that the “chain link” fence be vinyl coated to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Town Budget for 2020-21 Construction of the Woodbury Street Sidewalk is presently in the Draft of the Town Budget to be approved by the voters in April. There was discussion of other projects scheduled for later years as

recommended by Kyle Fox in his November 18 memo to Eileen Cabanel. Bill Wilkes pointed out to the Committee the importance of continuing sidewalks on Continental Boulevard.

School District Budget 2020-21 Hearing on the Draft Budget is scheduled for 18 February. Paving & Sidewalk for O’Gara Drive has been postponed to 21-22 and the School Board desire is now to do a Master Plan for the whole configuration of School District Properties in the vicinity of the High School before repaving O’Gara Drive. Plan would consider locations for Office Space, pedestrian traffic, parking, student parking, traffic flow and sidewalks. This will be on the School District Warrant for 2020.

Additions for TCC on Town Website There was considerable discussion of our thoughts/plans to better communicate the work of our Committee to the Merrimack Citizens. It was noted that we can add things we wish on the Town Website, but it was felt that this was not an effective way to reach citizens, because of the complexities of the website use. It was felt that creating a TCC Website would require more effort than the Committee can provide. It was felt by most that using Facebook (or Instagram) would be a more effective means of communication. It was agreed that Bill Cummings and Nelson would further communicate with Eileen Cabanel regarding set up for a Facebook Page for the TCC.

The 2019 Annual Report for the TCC has been submitted.

TCC Vacancies: The Town Center Committee is still short five members from a fully staffed committee. - Not discussed

### **New Business**

TCC Booth for the Winter Carnival will be staffed by Nelson Disco and Bill Wilkes. 12:00 -3:00 pm on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Preliminary Design Layout for the Souhegan River Trail will be shown to the public at the Carnival.

Other projects to consider for 2020 and Additional TV Presentations: tabled

**Public Comment** – none

**Next Meeting** – April 3, 2020 at 12:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Room.

**Adjournment** – Bill Wilkes moved and Finlay Rothhaus seconded to adjourn, 12:45 pm. Approved 7-0-0.