

Town Center Committee
Approved Minutes for the Meeting of May 8, 2020 (Rev 6/22)

This meeting was held via the Zoom software program, with each participant remaining at home or in their offices

Present: Nelson Disco, Karen Freed, Matt Shevenell, Finlay Rothhaus, Bill Wilkes, Kyle Fox, Peter Flood, Bill Cummings

Guest: Nicholas LaVallee

Minute Taker: Nelson Disco

February 14 Minutes

The Minutes of the TCC meeting of February 14 were approved on a motion by Bill Cummings seconded by Karen Freed, by a vote of 8-0-0. Because this was an electronic meeting, a roll-call vote was required which is recorded as follows: Peter Flood, aye; Matt Shevenell, aye; Bill Cummings, aye; Bill Wilkes, aye; Karen Freed, aye; Nelson Disco, aye; Finlay Rothhaus, aye; and Kyle Fox, aye.

Old Business:

Status of Souhegan River Trail : Kyle reported the news that the current Governors Recommendations for the Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan 2021- 2030 has recommended moving the Souhegan River Trail Project construction from 2024 to 2021. If this change to the 10-year Plan can be funded, we may be able to begin Trail Construction in 2021. - The design of the Trail by Quantum Construction Consultants 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 showed a preliminary Design Plan for the Trail which was reviewed by the Committee. This Plan was similar to the plan reviewed by the Committee in February and showed to the public at the Merrimack Winter Carnival. Suggestions offered by the Committee were to include comments observed in February and are now to be included in the letter response to Quantum Construction include providing access to the Fire Station and Buckley’s Restaurant from Watson Park via a path from the Trail to the fire station, vinyl coating on the Chain Link Fences and a mounting area for the Bronze Plaque donated by Pennichuck Water Works. Design is expected to be completed by end of 2020.

The Committee voted to approve the Draft Letter to be submitted to Quantum, Construction. By roll-call vote the votes were: Peter Flood, aye; Matt Shevenell, aye; Bill Cummings, aye; Bill Wilkes, aye; Karen Freed, aye; Nelson Disco, aye; Finlay Rothhaus, aye; and Kyle Fox, aye.

Town and School District Budgets for 2020-21 Voting on the Town and School Budgets is now scheduled to take place on 23 June. Construction of the Woodbury Street Sidewalk is presently in the Draft of the Town Budget. to be approved by the voters in April.

School District Budget 2020-21 As noted in February, Paving & Sidewalk for O’Gara Drive has been postponed to FY 21-22 and the School Board is now planning 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 Master Plan is a separate Warrant Article to be voted on June 23.

Additions for TCC on Town Website Nicholas Lavallee joined the Committee for this discussion. 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 maintaining a TCC presence on the Town Website or 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, but would also require a maintenance that the TCC could not provide.. It was agreed that Bill Cummings and Nicholas would further communicate with Eileen Cabanel regarding set up for a Facebook Page for the TCC.

Winter Carnival It was reported that the Merrimack Winter Carnival held in February was very well attended and many favorable comments on the Committee’s work were received.

New Business

The Pancake Breakfast and all Fourth of July activities have been canceled for 2020 due to the virus infection. The School buildings are closed

at least until September sessions. The status of the Farmer's Market is uncertain at this time.

Public Comment –

Peter Flood called the Committee's attention to a new type of rail project that had been installed in _____, Brazil. He will distribute details for the Committee.

Next Meeting – Friday, June 26, 2020 at 12:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment – Bill Wilkes moved and Karen Freed seconded to adjourn, 1:15 pm. Approved 8-0-0. Roll call Vote: Peter Flood, aye; Matt Shevenell, aye; Bill Cummings, aye; Bill Wilkes, aye; Karen Freed, aye; Nelson Disco, aye; Finlay Rothhaus, aye; and Kyle Fox, aye.