

Approved: September 24, 2021

**Town Center Committee
Minutes for the Meeting of August 13, 2021**

This meeting was held at 12:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room in the Merrimack Town Hall.

Present: Nelson Disco, Bill Cummings, Bill Wilkes, Dawn Tuomala, Nicholas Lavallee, Matt Shevenell and Karen Freed

Absent: Finlay Rothhaus. Dawn Tuomala represented the DPW in the absence of Kyle Fox

Minute Taker: Nelson Disco

June 11, 2021 Minutes

The Minutes of the TCC meeting of June 11 were approved with one correction on a motion by Bill Cummings, seconded by Bill Wilkes, by a vote of 5-0. Dawn Tuomala and Matt Shevenell abstained.

Old Business Discussions:

4a. Souhegan River Trail.

Dawn Tuomala presented the progress on behalf of the DPW.

We still do not have approval for The River Trail wetlands impact. Through the Town's consulting engineers we have asked for and received approval to amend our application to include a boardwalk through the wetlands. We expect to resubmit this application prior to October 5th. We expect this amended permit will be viewed favorably by NHDES as it incorporates their request for a boardwalk.

The final draft narrative for the Section 106 MOE Historical Element proposed action tables for review and comment of NHDHR and NHDOT was submitted on June 23. Hopefully this will close out the historical reviews/comments for this project.

Once the historical and wetlands permits have been resolved all the environmental items will be sent for federal review through the NEPA process. We are hopeful that this review will be straight forward due to the scrutiny it has received at the State Level.

Another hurdle yet to be achieved is to resolve any funding issues due to cost increase resulting from the boardwalk addition.

4b & 4d. Woodbury Street Sidewalk

Plans for the Woodbury Street sidewalk are in final stages of preparation. The bid package for a contractor will be sent to Merrimack Finance Department by August 16. Bid for construction will be due to the Town by September 9th. Project completion is expected by December 1 except for some landscaping that may be done in the spring. DPW has been coordinating with the School District regarding issues of road closures on Woodbury Street, drainage issues and tree removal. The TCC and Media Services will be advised of progress weekly during construction and Media Services will document the construction progress on video tape.

4c. High School Master Plan

A contract for the High School Master Traffic Plan has been signed by the School District and Keach Nordstrom Associates. The School Planning and Building Committee and Matt Shevenell will have input to his plan which will include plans for the O’Gara Drive sidewalk. It is expected to have results from this plan available for the 2022-23 School District Budget by the end of this year.

4e.TCC Facebook page

Nicholas Lavalley reported that there have been about 400 visitors to the TCC Facebook Page. Nicholas also reported that he has made videos on the progress of the Turkey Hill Road Roundabout, and plans to make one for the Town 275th Anniversary project. He would also like to make one for the Town Center, identifying the boundaries and key features of the Town Center. The Committee was all in favor of this proposal. Nicholas is also planning to make a video of the Woodbury Street sidewalk construction when this project gets under way.

Nelson reported having troubles accessing the TCC Facebook page. Nicholas provided a new link to the page which is given below. Nicholas is encouraging everyone to visit the TCC Facebook page and if one has a Facebook page, click “share” on a post, and invite other townspeople to participate. The link to the video is; [Facebook.com/Town Center Committee](https://www.facebook.com/Town-Center-Committee)

4f. Route 3 Bridge.

The DPW consultant continues to work on the benefit-cost analysis for this project and has made a preliminary submittal to the NH Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) We are

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awaiting their comments and direction on moving forward with the analysis and the BRIC grant application.

4i. No change to the status of the Souhegan River footbridge. (In next NHDOT Ten Year Plan)

New Business

Nelson reported that he expected to be presenting the TCC Annual Report to the Town Council in October. He expects to make another plea for restoring the annual appropriation for sidewalks in the 2022-23 Town Budget. He asked committee members for any suggestions that should be made to the Town Council during this report.

Public Comments

There were no public comments received at this meeting.

Next Meeting – Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2021, in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

Adjournment – Karen Freed moved and Bill Cummings seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:10 pm. Motion approved 7-0.