

Approved: February 18, 2022

**Town Center Committee
Minutes for the Meeting of January 14, 2022**

This meeting was held at 12:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room in the Merrimack Town Hall. Five members were present in the Meeting Room and three members were present via Zoom.

Present in the Meeting Room: Nelson Disco, Bill Cummings, Karen Freed, Matt Shevenell and Finlay Rothhaus

Present via Zoom: Bill Wilkes, Karen Contos and Kyle Fox

Absent: Nicholas LaVallee

Minute Taker: Nelson Disco

November 19, 2021 Minutes

The Minutes of the TCC meeting of November 19 were approved on a motion by Bill Cummings, seconded by Karen Freed by a vote of 6-0-2, with Matt Shevenell and Finlay Rothhaus abstaining.

Old Business Discussions:

4a. TCC Annual Report

Nelson reported that he had given the TCC Annual Report to the Town Manager in December and that a letter had been sent to the Town Council requesting restoration of funding for construction of the Twin Bridge Road section of Town Center sidewalk in the Town budget for 2022-2023. In a follow-up conversation with the Town Manager a discussion meeting has been arranged for January 20 with the Manager, Dawn Tuomala and Kyle Fox to discuss the next priorities for Town Center planning.

4b. Woodbury Street Sidewalk

The project is now complete and it has been noted that students leaving the High School are using the sidewalk as a safe route to Route 3 from the school.

4c. Souhegan River Trail.

Kyle Fox presented the progress on behalf of the DPW. NHDOT has approved the project for design and design final is expected by August 22, with bids for construction expected by November 22, 2022. A new Project Manager from NHDOT (Tony Puntin) has taken over this and the U.S. Route 3 bridge project.

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The final draft narrative for the Section 106 MOE Historical Element proposed action tables for review and comment by NHDHR and NHDOT was submitted on June 23. This has not yet been approved.

4d. High School Master Plan

Matt Shevenell reported that Steve Keach is still working on the Master Plan for school area traffic plans. Repaving of O’Gara Drive and sidewalk is delayed for another year. School District deliberative session is scheduled for March 8 and voting is scheduled for April 12.

4e-f. Facebook & Woodbury Street Video Taping

Bill Wilkes reported that our facebook page is getting more “hits” as time goes on. Most comments are positive. Nicholas Lavallee was not present for this meeting, but it was reported that the Media Department has completed video filming the progress of the Woodbury Street construction. This, with video previously taken has yet to be combined into a complete narrative.

When completed, the link to the video will be; [Facebook.com/Town Center Committee](https://www.facebook.com/TownCenterCommittee)

4g. Route 3 Bridge.

Final design of the bridge is under way. Proposed utility relocation plans are being discussed with the various utility companies and our consultant next week. Funding for this program remains a concern. Kyle is still pursuing a FEMA Grant to make up for \$2M funding shortfall. Construction is currently scheduled for 2024/2025.

New Business

New Library

Nelson reported that the Library Trustees have selected the Twin Bridge Park as their preferred site for a new Library.

Church Street

Nelson reminded the Committee of the letter written by the TCC on November 18, 2013, recommending closing the connection of Church Street to Route 3. All agreed that this was still a necessary action to implement Route 3 sidewalks. This will be discussed with the Town Manager on January 20.

TAP Grant for Route 3 Sidewalk

A TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) for sidewalk on West side of Route 3 from Frazier Square to Merrimack 360 Shopping Center has been

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included in the draft ten year plan. Final award notice is still expected around June 22. Construction would be about 2030.

Merrimack Winter Carnival

This year's Winter Carnival is planned for Saturday, February 26 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at Wasserman Park. There will be no indoor booths this year and all activities will be outdoors. It was suggested that we have some representatives of the TCC outdoors handing out our brochure to anyone interested. It was noted that our brochure may need to be updated for latest information. Nelson will look into updating the brochure.

Public Comments - There were no public comments received.

Next Meeting – Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2022, in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

Adjournment –Bill Cummings moved and Karen Freed seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:00 pm. Motion approved 7-0.