

Approved: September 30, 2022



**Town Center Committee
Minutes for the Meeting of August 19, 2022**

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

Present: Nelson Disco (chairman), Bill Cummings, Finlay Rothhaus, Karen Freed, Karen Contos, Kyle Fox and Michael Redding

Absent: Matt Shevenell, Nicholas Lavalley and Bill Wilkes

Minute Taker: Michael Redding

June 24, 2022 Minutes

The Minutes of the TCC meeting of June 24th were presented and reviewed by the TCC.

MOTION: Michael Redding made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Karen Contos seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7-0-0.**

Old Business Discussions:

5a Results of TCC Display at the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast

Nelson and Karen Contos attended the event. The new poster and trifold maps were on display for the public to view. In general, the public gave good feedback on the poster, trifold and the overall work of the committee. There was even an interest to donate funds. Nelson reported that the TCC has a bank account and we could set something up. Nelson suggested that the TCC members consider means and conditions to allow for donations. Nelson will then present to the Town Council in October. Mike suggested using donated funds to purchase signs and boards detailing the project and key people and sponsors. Nelson noted that there were a number of posters and signs included in the Souhegan River Trail project.

5b Review of TCC Map recently completed by NRPC

Nelson reported that NRPC is willing to make one more round of edits. The latest version of the poster map and the trifold map were available for TCC members to review. Nelson noted that the two maps are slightly different because of printing format issues.

The members listed the following edits for both the poster and trifold:
Color code yellow “sidewalk need” on Twin Bridge Rd from DWH to Park entrance.

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Watson Park – RR spur should be removed

Baboosic Lake Rd – show “Existing Sidewalk” from DWH to end of Library frontage.

Woodbury St – change to “Existing Sidewalk” with recent project completion

DWH – change to “Existing Sidewalk” from Lobster Boat to Watson Park

Abbie Griffin Park – show Pedestrian Access as “Existing Sidewalk”

DWH and Wire Rd – show “Existing Sidewalk” in front of Lewis’ Towing

Nelson will pass these changes on to NRPC for a final revision.

5c Souhegan River Trail

Kyle reported that the final plans and specification for construction are complete and submitted to NHDOT and FHWA for approval. Once approved, the plans will be released to contractors for bids. Kyle reminded us that the NHDOT accelerated the project and offered additional funding as part of the acceleration. Kyle reported that NHDOT has a new standard that requires the engineer inspection of the construction to be different than the design engineer. Therefore, DPW has solicited qualification bids from NHDOT approved consultants. The qualification-based selection process will require DPW to pick the firm that best meets our project needs. Then DPW will negotiate the cost of their services. If an agreement cannot be made then DPW moves on to the 2nd best firm.

Is it likely that construction could start in early winter, which will be a good time for the project to start. The type of work is appropriate for winter construction.

5d. High School Master Plan – No update presented

5e. Status of TCC Facebook

Nelson reported that Nick has updated the Facebook page and it looks good. Kyle reported the page has 440 followers. In the last 28 days the page reach increased by 703% reaching 972 people, visits were up 100% with 30 new views and 8 new likes

5f. Route3/ Baboosic Brook Bridge.

Kyle reminded the members that the project is now combined with the Wire Rd safety improvements. He recommended we re-title the discussion item to be US Route 3 Bridge over Baboosic Brook & Wire Rd Safety Project.

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Project design work is underway for the Wire Rd portion; the surveyors started early before the official kickoff meeting. The project kickoff meeting is scheduled for August 24th and will include NHDOT, Town of Merrimack (i.e., DPW) and the engineering consultants. Kyle noted that traffic counts are coming from NRPC which will be at no cost to the Town.

New Business

6a. Town Center Video

Nelson reported that Nick released a new Town Center video. All are encouraged to view it.

6b. FE Everett Turnpike (FEET) Widening

Mike reported that he sent an email to Wendy Johnson at NHDOT to inquire about traffic mitigation plans for the turnpike widening and its potential impact on the Merrimack Town Center.

6c. Strategy to Advance Town Center Plans

Nelson reported that he will be making the TCC Annual-presentation and petition to the Town Council in October. He is looking to petition for funding but is cautious that the Town Council may not support our interests. Finlay reported that the Town Council is trying to balance budget and tax rate. He noted that the Town Council certainly sees the importance of sidewalks and the committee's efforts, but it needs to address all priorities. Nelson asked about a warrant article. Finlay noted it would be a reasonable request and encouraged Nelson to make it. Finlay further noted that Nelson should be prepared to provide a cost amount and if its not too large the Council would likely support it. Nelson asked members to consider what sidewalk pieces we should ask for in the warrant article.

Finlay reminded Nelson to bring up the discontinuation of Church Street with the Town Council.

Public Comments - There were no public comments received.

Next Meeting – Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 30, 2022, at noon in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

Adjournment – **MOTION:** Bill C made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike second the motion. **The motion passed 7-0-0.**