

Approved: February 10, 2023



**Town Center Committee  
Minutes for the Meeting of January 6, 2023**

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

**Present:** Nelson Disco (chairman), Finlay Rothhaus, Kyle Fox, Nicholas Lavallee, Karen Contos, Michael Redding and Bill Wilkes

**Absent:** Matt Shevenell, Karen Freed

**Minute Taker:** Michael Redding

**September 30, 2022 Minutes**

The Minutes of the TCC meeting of September 30th, were presented and reviewed by the TCC at the Nov meeting. No motion was made, Nelson revised the minutes and presented them for review and acceptance.

**MOTION:** Approve as amended by Karen Contos and Seconded by Bill Wilkes. **Vote: 5-0-1** w/ Bill Wilkes abstaining

**November 18, 2022 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Approve as presented by Bill Wilkes and seconded by Karen Contos.

**Vote: 6-0-0**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion of High School Traffic Plan**

Mike noted that the plan supported TCC plan for sidewalks. He expressed concerns regarding the improvements for the turn from Baboosic Lake Rd onto O’Gara Drive. This initiative needs someone to champion this with NHDOT. Bill Wilkes noted concerns about Administration Building and its impact if any on the plans if it doesn’t get built. The TCC continued in discussion on these items. Nelson will prepare a draft opinion of the plan for the TCC to review at the next meeting.

**MEETING INTERRUPTION**

The meeting was interrupted to allow recognition of Kyle Fox. Town Manager Paul Michelli and Councilor Nancy Harrington spoke about Kyle’s dedication and expressed gratitude and well wishes. Nick Lavallee noted his gratitude for Kyle’s support of Merrimack TV and the way he used social media to connect with the public.

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Kyle has accepted a position as Assistant DPW Director with the Town of Westford, MA. Bruce Berry will serve as interim DPW Director. Nelson noted that the Town engineer and wastewater treatment plant director have also recently accepted positions with other towns. The town is actively seeking replacement of their positions.

**Town Center Committee Map and Plan:**

Nelson presented the updated trifold map and plan prepared by Nashua Regional Planning Commission. A large format print is available.

**Souhegan River Trail:**

Kyle reported that the contract amendment for construction was approved by the NHDOT and Town Council to allow for a re-bid. The amendment allows for a work-day completion schedule for completion rather than a calendar-day schedule. Kyle feels this addresses the concerns of several bidders who did not bid due to their workload. Kyle noted the contract format still protects the Town from damages due to start and stop nature of work, liability is on contractor.

The re-bid posting is likely to occur at the end of January with bids opened in February (5 weeks from posting). The construction engineering inspection contract was approved by NHDOT and Town Council.

Kyle asked to be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony.

**Town Center Committee Facebook Page:**

Nick reported the page gained 100+ followers in the last two months and now has approximately 550 followers. He noted 20% of them are non-residents. Nick and Bill asked the TCC for input on content. They stressed the need to keep adding content regularly to keep followers engaged. A discussion proceeded about the Wire Rd intersection project and other ideas for content.

**Status of Route 3/ Wire Road intersection:**

Kyle reported that a second public hearing is taking place on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>@7pm. The engineering consultant will present the three options: Stop, signal or roundabout. The consultant will focus on the purpose of safety improvements and how these design addresses that in different ways. Kyle noted that the study and design is also considering the Daniel Webster Highway corridor and includes pedestrian safety (i.e., sidewalks). The

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project will address the TCC need for sidewalks from Twin Bridge Rd to Baboosic Lake Rd. The Town Council will make the decision on which design to go with following this public hearing.

Karen asked if the design/study included bicycles. Kyle noted that the corridor is too narrow and is unable to accommodate a bicycle lane. However, the Baboosic Brook bridge will be wide enough to provide a shoulder for bikes to travel.

Nelson expressed concerns about Town Counselor who recently spoke against sidewalks for this project. Finlay noted that he feels this is a minority opinion on the Town Council.

Further discussion occurred with members regarding the termination of Church St.

Kyle reported that the project has a combined construction cost of \$7 to \$8 million and is planned for FY 2025. However, Kyle noted many steps need to occur before construction can begin.

### **FE Everett Turnpike Widening**

Mike reported that he has been emailing with Wendy Johnson@NHDOT and asked her to attend a TCC meeting so we can gain some insight from her on ways to mitigate impacts to the town center during the FEET widening projects. He is still waiting for her response.

### **Strategy to advance Town Center plans**

Nelson asked the TCC what else can we do to assist the Town Council in funding our projects. Nelson presented several outside funding sources. Discussion occurred about how to determine project costs and how best to estimate sidewalk construction and the need for site specific review.

Bill Wilkes introduced a new topic regarding expanding TCC Charter to include the Continental Boulevard and Outlet Mall area.

Mike recommended that this topic be tabled so it could be discussed at a future meeting when we could dedicate more time to it.

**Public Comments** - There were no public comments received.

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**Next Meeting** – Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2023, at noon in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

**Adjournment – MOTION:** Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kyle second the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0**