

Approved: March 17, 2023



**Town Center Committee  
Minutes for the Meeting of February 10, 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, Bruce Berry, Nicholas Lavallee, Karen Contos, Karen Freed, Matt Shevenell and Michael Redding

**Absent:** Bill Wilkes

**Visitor:** Dave Trippet

**Minute Taker:** Michael Redding

**January 6, 2023 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Approve as presented by Mike and seconded by Karen C.

**Vote: 5-0-3, abstaining: Bruce, Matt and Karen F**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion of High School Traffic Plan**

Nelson provided a draft letter to the school board regarding our comments on the traffic master plan that was presented at the November meeting. Matt provided comments and edits to the letter. Matt provided an update on the latest developments for the master plan. School board approved the demolishing of the Brentwood Building (red). TCC discussed the proposed SAU Building and its impact on the sidewalk and traffic plan if plans change and its not built.

Nelson will make edits to the letter based upon feedback from TCC members and present at the next meeting.

**Souhegan River Trail:**

Bruce reported that the re-bid opening is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup>, there was interest by 4 contractors. Bruce is anticipating a better response to the amendment to the contract and completion schedule.

**Town Center Committee Facebook Page:**

Nick reported there were no changes in the number of followers since January. Last month he posted the Wire Rd project video on the public hearing and one of Nelson's comments at the hearing. Nick responded to a public comment regarding a misunderstanding about the Town Councils approval of the signalized intersection option and not for a rotary, as was commented by the public post. Nick emphasized that the town Facebook

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pages are a source of information for residents, that can be relied upon. Nick encouraged members to share the TCC page content to their feed to gain more social media presence.

### **Town Center Video**

Nick reported that there are 3 videos coming soon. One on the ice skating rink and 2 on the Brentwood Building demo. Nick noted that there were 100 viewers of the Wire Rd public hearing video.

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

Bruce reported that now that the Town Council has approved a design for Wire Rd the full design process can begin. This will take several months.

### **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. Nelson stressed the need to keep moving forward with projects even if its bit s and parts of one, like the preliminary design or right-of-way research. Nelson presented a list of USDOT funding sources for sidewalks and bicycles. Discussion continued on projects costs and estimating the costs. Nelson agreed to reach out to NRPC to see if they can recommend which grant is best worth pursuing considering our needs and which ones we might have a higher likelihood of getting approval.

Finlay reported the Town Council is taking action on Church St and its changes and/or closure.

### **Winter Carnival**

Nelson reported that the event is outdoors again this year at Watson Park. This will make it hard for the TCC to have a booth and present our plans; therefore, we will not be able to participate.

**Public Comments** – Dave Trippet expressed that he too experienced similar challenges with trying to get projects funded. He is in support of our

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projects and sees great value in improving the quality of life for our residents and supporting local businesses.

**Next Meeting** – Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2023, at noon in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

**Adjournment – MOTION:** Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen C second the motion. **Vote: 8-0-0**