

**Town Center Committee
Minutes for the Meeting of March 17, 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, Bill Wilkes, Matt Shevenell, Justin Slez (filling in for Nicholas Lavallee), and Karen Contos

Absent: Michael Redding

Minute Taker: Karen Contos

Announcements: Committee member Karen Freed resigned. The Committee will need to replace her with a Library Board of Trustees member. Also, Dawn Tuomala has been chosen as the new Director of Public Works. She was previously the Assistant Director.

February 10, 2023 Minutes

MOTION: Approve as presented by Finlay Rothhaus and seconded by Karen Contos

Vote: 6-0-1, abstaining Bill Wilkes

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of High School Traffic Plan

Nelson provided a revised draft letter to the committee based on the discussion from the last meeting. Matt wasn't happy with the sentence that there was concern that O'Gara Drive could only provide a one-lane exit causing congestion. Bill proposed that perhaps the road could be widened by cutting into the baseball field a small amount to accomplish the creation of a right-turn lane. Then Mr. Keach can investigate this possibility. Due to these changes, Nelson will revise the letter again and send it to committee members in several days for their review.

Souhegan River Trail

Bruce reported that two contractors bid on the project, yet one was disqualified. It was the higher bid anyway. Public Works is waiting for the DOT to approve the bid amount of \$1.6 million. Notice will proceed shortly.

Bruce also reported on the Chamberlain bridge project discussed with the DOT. The project is slated for the end of their ten-year plan and won't impact the Souhegan River Trail that lies underneath the bridge. The bridge will be replaced with a similar historic-looking structure rather than being refurbished.

Nelson will write a letter noting that the new bridge needs to accommodate the Souhegan River Trail.

Town Center Committee Facebook Page and Town Center Video

Bill noted that the page needs more content. Per Justin, due to winter weather, there hasn't been much activity in the town center. With warmer weather, there will be more content to put on FB, such as the Woodbury sidewalk project and the upcoming start of the Souhegan River Trail project. We discussed that a ribbon-cutting ceremony would be appropriate. Matt mentioned that there would be content as well with the high school proceeding with the traffic plan and the demolition of Brentwood.

Status of Route 3 / Wire Road Intersection:

Bruce reported that the finalization of the plan may take one year. It is under engineering review with the DOT. Concept drawings will be reviewed Tuesday and Dawn will be attending. Matt asked about the intersection and Bruce clarified that a T-signal intersection rather than a roundabout has been chosen.

NEW BUSINESS

FE Everett Turnpike Widening

Nelson reported that Mike has yet to hear from the DOT engineer regarding when she can come to one of our meetings to discuss potential issues with the timelines of both the FEET Widening and the Route 3/Wire Road projects.

Strategy to Advance Town Center Plans

At the end of the last meeting, Nelson passed out a worksheet of Federal funding sources for sidewalk construction and other pedestrian-related projects, provided by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. He has contacted NRPC to get someone from the organization to assign us a contact person to work with to find the most relevant funding sources.

Public Comments-None

Next Meeting- Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2023, at noon in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

Adjournment – MOTION: Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen seconded the motion. **Vote: 7-0-0**