

**Annual Report to Merrimack Town Council
By Town Center Advisory Committee
October 29, 2020**

Committee Charge: 2009; Recommendations from iTrac Study

- Ad hoc committee created by the Town Council to implement the recommendations of the NRPC iTrac Study
- Reports to the Town Manager
- Works with Town Officials, Residents, Businesses, and Conservation Commission.
- Purpose is to co-ordinate development of a safe and inviting Town Center for residents and visitors to patronize local business and key destinations.
- Committee Charge was amended in December 2019 to add a representative from DPW. Kyle Fox is now the DPW Representative.
- Committee Meetings have been held via Zoom since February. Assisted by Nick Lavallee

Current Membership - Nelson Disco, chair, Bill Wilkes, Karen Freed, Matt Shevenell, Bill Cummings, Kyle Fox, DPW, Finlay Rothhaus, T. C. Representative. - No Representative from the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce. - Open Openings for six members at large

Loss of Member Peter Flood

Souhegan River Trail (SRT) – TAP grant awarded January, 2015

- 2017 revised cost estimate, combined funds from 2014 and 2016 TAP grant awards. (Woodbury Street sidewalk and Souhegan River Trail)
- 2018 design prepared by Quantum Construction Consultants.
- New Schedule received May 2019 – expected construction bids March 2020
- Comments on final design sent to Quantum Construction in May 2020
- Newly approved Ten Year Plan Schedule advertises Construction contract March 2021
- September 2020 advised that another Cultural Resources Study now needed for this project. (Phase 1-A archeological Study)
- Contract amended and hopefully Study can be completed in 2020 – construction out to bid in 2021.

Souhegan River Footbridge

- Souhegan River Footbridge found to be structurally deficient. DPW applied to NH State Park Service for a LWCF Project for funding. We are ineligible because the bridge is located in NHDOT Right-of-Way and the grant requires land ownership. Also applied for State Bridge aid. Proposal has been made to the TTAC and has now (10/14) voted to be included in the NRPC 10 year plan (2023-2032).

Woodbury Street Sidewalk.

- 2016 TAP Grant awarded and canceled. Funds diverted to Souhegan River Trail
- 2018 Applied for another TAP Grant to cover Woodbury Street and North side of Baboosic Lake Road - Library to FEET Overpass. This project given priority by NRPC, but denied by NHDOT
- Funds appropriated at the 2020 Town Meeting for Woodbury St. construction
- Awaiting Town Council ok to proceed to design & construction

Public Outreach

- An Information booth was held at Winter Carnival in February.
- Information booths at The Pancake Breakfast and Library Turkey Shoot were canceled due to Covid virus.

Safe Routes to School

- School District budget for 2020-2021 includes a Master Plan for High School area.
- Master Plan Committee to be established late 2020 or 2021.
- Construction of O'Gara Drive Sidewalk to be included in School Master Plan.

TCC Plans for 2019-20

- Work with SAU to Develop a School Campus Center Master Plan
- Work with the Media Center (Nicholas Lavallee) to develop a TCC Facebook Page
- Continue Public Outreach – Information Booths – as allowed by Covid rules.
- Co-ordinate with DPW in preparing Capital Improvement Plans for pedestrian ways. Twin Bridge Road to Rte 3 (2020-2021 CIP)

Recommendations to the Council

- Continue to budget funding Annually to Implement small projects to complete iTrac goals (i.e. Library to Police Station, Crosswalks, East side of DWH, Twin Bridge Rd. to Commons)
- Continue Committee Support through the Town Manager and DPW
- Help Recruit Full Committee

Suggestions for Further Information:

- Town Web Site for Town Center Master Plan. <http://www.merrimasacknh.gov>
- HEAL NH, www.healnh.org
- Complete Streets Guide: <http://www.plan4health-coalitions/nashua-nh-plan4health>
- NHDOT Guide to Promoting Walking and Bicycling Accommodations in New Hampshire -
- Merrimack Master Plan 2013 with DWH Bike/Ped Corridor Plan, 2019.

Submitted by Nelson R. Disco
Chairman of the Town Center Committee