

TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 12:03.

Present: Nelson Disco, Peter Flood, Bill Wilkes, Bill Cummings, Finlay Rothhaus, Mary Hendricks, Karen Freed, Jackie Flood. Absent with notice: Matt Shevenell.

Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business:

Status of Souhegan River Trail: Quantum Consulting is still working on the preliminary design, probably until mid-November. They will be looking at cultural and historical factors also.

Annual Briefing to the Merrimack Town Council: The Council was hospitable. They included moneys in the Capital Reserve Fund to provide for the Master Plan.

Our booth at the Merrimack Business Expo was successful. There was steady traffic and enthusiasm for the maps of the Town Center trails and walks.

Safe Routes to School: The School Board discussed a sidewalk being tied in to the repaving of O'Gara Drive. There was a Safe Routes to School Day on Oct. 5 with JMUES participating. The children who wanted to walk met adjacent to the Brentwood School at 8 a.m. and walked from there to McElwain St. It was a token recognition for Merrimack.

New Members: Bill W.'s contact was not interested, but Bill C. has a prospect. Peter's contact hasn't been accessible. Steve Keach has expressed interest.

Other New Business:

TAP sidewalk projects application status: Kyle Fox has put in a second application for grant money through the DOT for extra funds for sidewalks to be installed to the north of the library up to the Wire Rd. intersection. This project is rated #1 on the priority list for this region by the NRPC.

What are our priorities? Bill W. suggested looking at the map again to see what connections are needed. The Committee propped up our 3 big maps to examine what priorities are listed there. The first is a walk from the Courthouse through Abbie Griffin Park to the D.W. Highway sidewalk; the second is the sidewalk by Watson Park that is now completed; third is a bridge over Baboosic Brook at Kids Kove; fourth is the intersection of Wire Rd. and D. W. Hgwy; fifth is a sidewalk on O’Gara Dr.; sixth is Fraser Sq.; seventh is a sidewalk on Woodbury; and seventh is the intersection of D. W. and Baboosic Lake Rd.

We discussed a path or sidewalk from Abie Griffin Park to the sidewalk to get to Watson Park for example. Bill W. will work on it with Peter. The surface could be asphalt or stone dust.

We think that Woodbury St. is the most important project. Watson Park and the Souhegan River Trail is in the works now; O’Gara Drive might be a priority for the school.

Some discussion was made on the School District’s hope for a new SAU office and how that might affect a sidewalk on O’Gara. A sidewalk built now might need to be torn up.

EDCAC will host a presentation at 7 pm o Nov. 9. On Nov. 15, the Planning Board will host a Complete Streets proposal and explanation, and an update on where it’s been done successfully.

Bill Cummings is interested in discussing a presentation for Merrimack TV on the Town Center.

We set **the next meeting** on Dec. 2. We then adjourned.