



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes

City of Rochester

Wednesday March 11, 2020

City Hall Annex (second floor conference room)

33 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

(These minutes were approved on April 15, 2020)

Members Present

Molly Meulenbroek, *Chair*

Martha Wingate, *Vice Chair*

Marilyn Jones

Nancy Dibble

Matt Winders, *Alternate*

Members Absent

Peter Bruckner

Mayor, Caroline McCarley

I. **Call to Order.** Ms. Meulenbroek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from **February 12, 2020** were approved by a motion from Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Meulenbroek. All voted in favor.

III. Community Development Block Grant Sign and Façade Program

IV. Joanne Piazzai

This was a previously approved Community Development Block Grant Sign and Façade Program and Mrs. Piazzai is requesting to be reimbursed the full amount of funds.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Dibble to approve the application as submitted.

V. Planters in Downtown

Todd Radict the owner of Skele-Tone Records and Christopher Rice City Councilor presented the idea for planters in downtown: black poles installed in 1984 as a decoration. It served its purpose. They suggest planter box system (triangle that could be removed at the end of the season). They do not want them on the ground because they would be trampled and wouldn't be seen. The multifaceted approved with local organization and students (school board is on board). They will reach out to businesses to purchase sponsorships to go into fund to pay for the boxes. They plan to work with the wood shop at SHS to build them. They are working a planting plan. The first portion of the court house to Wakefield Street. They want to remove the black poles all at once. All the poles would need to be repainted, 28 need to be straightened with new caps. They plan to show the sign sponsors. The planters and flowers would make a statement and help the bees. Other cities have done this. Mrs. Meulenbroek state that from a design perspective you cannot just put soil around the tree trunk because it would rot the crown of the tree. She mentioned that they should reference Weirs Beach: top of the trash barrels would have flowers. Triangle shape, one side can be taken apart and can be attached to the tree. They mentioned that there is no design for the planters yet and that will be discussed.

Mrs. Meulenbroek mentioned that the group should consult Urban Tree about protecting the tress and UNH Cooperative Extension. Consider floating pots. Mr. Rice stated that the first step is to get approval for removal of post.

Mrs. Jones made a motion to allow for the removal of post and Mrs. Wingate seconded.

VI. Hilltop School Recap

Mrs. Jones gave an overview of the Hilltop School meeting.

VII. Administrative Approval

None.

VIII. Certified Local Government Grant

The Planning and Development Department submitted a grant with update the original survey. Mrs. Mears will be submitting to NH Division of Historical Resources for a grant to update the survey that was last completed in 1983.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mrs. McCarley to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Wingate
Vice Chair