

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 22, 2020

Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams

33 WAKEFIELD STREET, ROCHESTER, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Walker, Stacey Purslow, Suzie Mills, Peter Bruckner, Kerry Landry, Barbara Murphy, Maggie McConaghy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Esther Turner, Ray Felts, Jon Batson

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Erin Mahoney, Principal of Maple Street School

- A. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Walker read the preamble and called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM and roll call attendance was taken.
- B. **APPROVAL**
 - a. Motion to accept the minutes of November 24, 2020 was made by Stacey. Suzie seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, all in favor.
- C. **DISCUSSION Update on SCBR grant opportunity:** Barbara noted that she received the LOI from the Riverwalk Committee. The Strafford County Board of Realtors did not have a December meeting but hope to discuss this further at their January/February meeting. Barbara will follow up with the Riverwalk as they have discussions. Jenn noted that she reached out to Recreation and some structures are allowed in Hanson Pines. This was in regards to a potential project for this grant and an outdoor classroom.
- D. **Update on Potential Projects**
 - a. **Overlook:** Peter gave an update on the overlook. He reached out to the State and they had concerns about impeding any water flow. Peter shared his proposal and will continue working with the State and DPW. He looked at a pre-cast platform that could be lowered on the square near Duval Park. Early estimates are \$50-100 thousand. Peter will look at some other options and get back to the committee.
Pocket Park: This project is part of the SCBR grant opportunity above.
- E. **Fundraising Ideas for 2021:** Stacey is interested in looking into some fundraising ideas for 2021 to create more excitement for the Riverwalk. She will look at some potential summer events and Barbara mentioned she has held some successful online fundraising events as well. If anyone is interested in joining Stacey to discuss some ideas please reach out to her. Jenn noted that the RW does have its own link where anyone can make an online donation to the Riverwalk. It is similar to a PayPal account and the link is right on the Riverwalk City page.
- F. **Strategic Planning:**

Jenn introduced Colin Lentz from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. Colin joined the meeting to discuss the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant that will be available soon. This grant is a 20% match, will be announced in early January, is the final batch under the current bill, LOI are non-binding until the full application round and will be funded around October 2021. Colin noted he has not heard of other departments in

Rochester applying and wanted to make sure that Rochester put in for the grant if it had a project. Jenn said she would reach out to Planning and Public Works to see if they were looking at applying to ensure Rochester does not compete with itself. She will follow up when she hears.

Colin noted that the SRPC can be a resource for the grant for general numbers and technical assistance. The last round of TAP's there was a minimum for \$200k and a max of \$1 million. Previous projects have been for bike lanes, new sidewalks, extensions of trails and connecting schools.

- a. **Develop a grant calendar:** Stacey would like the Riverwalk to put together a grant calendar so the Committee has a long term idea of upcoming grants. Suzie has looked into a few of the grants that was sent out by Julian the CDBG coordinator in the City. She and Stacey will touch base to see if they can start a calendar of applicable grants.
 - b. **Collaboration on projects:** Stacey asked how we know what other projects are being worked on in the City that the Riverwalk might be able to collaborate on. She wanted to make sure the Riverwalk was involved in the Water Street discussion and anything else near/on the Riverwalk. Jenn noted that she does have connections with multiple organizations and that she will keep the Committee updated on other projects as she hears about them.
- G. **Meeting times and officers:** Dave noted that he is willing to step up and be the Riverwalk Chair for 2021. We are still looking for a Vice Chair whose job duties would be to fill in for the Chair when they cannot make a meeting. We will discuss and vote on officers at the January meeting where Esther will be present and she can let us know if she is willing to continue the role of secretary. Please let Jenn or Dave know if you have interest in the Vice Chair position.

Meetings for 2021 will remain every fourth Thursday at 6 PM. Meetings will be virtually until further notice. Once it is safe to meet in person the committee can discuss meeting in the City Hall Annex as it did before COVID.

Adjourn: Peter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM, Suzie seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, all in favor.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 6 PM, the meeting will be held virtually.

Respectfully Submitted

Jenn Marsh