

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 4, 2018

CITY HALL ANNEX, COCHECO ROOM
33 WAKEFIELD STREET, ROCHESTER, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT –

Jon Batson, Peter Bruckner, Ray Felts, Stacey Marchionni, Esther Turner, David Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT – Donna Bogan, Sandy Keans, Andrea Lemire

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE – Carl Fogarty, Owen Friend-Gray, Julian Long

A. CALL TO ORDER-Stacey called the meeting to order at 5:33.

B. APPROVAL - Minutes of August 21, 2018

David made a motion to approve the minutes, Ray seconded, unanimous approval.

C. DISCUSSION-Riverwalk dinner

The date for the dinner is Wednesday, September 26, with a rain date of Thursday, September 27; time 5:30 pm.

Ray has spoken with Taylor Rental about eight-foot tables and brown folding chairs. Because this is a Riverwalk event, they offer a 10% discount. It is not known if we may be able to obtain tables and chairs at no cost from the high school. In either case, Riverwalk must transport them to and from the dining site. Volunteers to help with transport and set up are needed.

Ray Felts and Stacey will stay in communication on this with a plan to reach a decision tomorrow (Wednesday).

Stacey will get tickets printed promptly so that she can get them out for advance sales. We can accept cash or checks but not credit cards. The City Council will tonight be voting on setting up a Riverwalk account. Assuming approval, all funds associated with the Riverwalk go to the City of Rochester and are accounted for separately in the Riverwalk account. Although Riverwalk is not a 501c3 organization, not a non-profit, it is an ad hoc committee of the City of Rochester and as such donations are tax deductible.

D. DISCUSSION-Grant applications

The RTP grant has received a recommendation for approval from the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails RTP Review Committee with the stipulation that the bridge be ADA-compliant. Stacey thanked the Committee and especially Julian, Esther, and Owen for their work on putting the grant application together.

In early 2019 the final approval by the Governor and Executive Council releases the funds to the project. There can be no in-kind match prior to the date of this approval. Julian is staying in close communication with Alexis Rudko at Bureau of Trails.

Owen warned that while a repurposed used bridge may appear to be a cost-saver, once the costs associated with assuring its structural integrity and refurbishing are added, it may not compare favorably to installing a new bridge. Stacey proposed consideration of a timber bridge, but the span may argue against a timber bridge. The width of the bridge will be at least four feet clear for ADA and may need to be wider as long spans require wider widths for stability.

Owen is working on getting a bridge engineer from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates to attend either the next Riverwalk Committee meeting or the one following. Stacey recommended a walk around the site before the snow falls to assure that the requirements are well understood.

Owen recommended a survey of the site, perhaps by Berry Surveying & Engineering.

The abutments are expected to cost ~\$40,000, leaving \$40,000 of the \$80,000 grant to apply to the bridge and its placement, plus the required match of \$20,000. Donations of time and materials will be sought as specified in the grant application. Fund-raising will be necessary for any additional costs.

Julian has been sharing information on other grant opportunities and will create a matrix of some of these with their dollar size, application due date, and category.

E. DISCUSSION-Master Plan

Stacey provided all members with copies of the revised master plan, August 2018, and the list of the requested edits that the committee had created on a previous review of the proposed update. She asked that each member read through the revised copy in their hands this week and get feedback to her by the end of the week.

David shared a very large map of the project that was printed from the original Riverwalk Master Plan.

F. DISCUSSION-Other

Donations. With the news that the footbridge will be funded, we have a project rather than a proposed project. There is a lot of positive talk on social media. Economic Development is putting together a press release. Companies that do charitable donations generally make their decisions at the beginning of the calendar year. This is the right time to start asking for donations. Several companies that have expressed interest in Riverwalk and others that are likely to find it in keeping with their missions will be approached. Stacey will draft a fund-raising appeal. A trifold is suggested but needs good graphic design. Stacey has a talented person in mind and will ask for help with this.

Educational component. Jon Batson raised the issue of building an informational system about the watershed, the history, the environment. Ideas shared included naming the trails, encouraging outdoor classrooms, having an outdoor art show.

Canoe/kayak launch. Carl Fogarty is working to clear the unnecessary barriers to public use of the launch park at the end of Hillsdale. His efforts have been effective at eliciting support for the little public park which is already on the shore of the Cocheco at Hillsdale. David is taking the request to expedite the removal of the existing barriers to City Council tonight so that the public may park at the city lot and have access to the city park.

ADJOURN – A motion to adjourn was made by Peter, second by Ray, and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 18 from 5:30-6:30 pm –

City Hall Annex, Cocheco Room, 33 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH

Respectfully submitted by Esther Turner