

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 25, 2022

City Hall Annex, Cocheco Room and remote attendance

ROCHESTER, NH 03967

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jon Batson (remote), Maggie McConaghy, Barbara Murphy (remote), Stacey Purslow, Esther Turner, David Walker

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jennifer Marsh (City Staff Contact; Assistant Director, Economic Development), Brian Hettrick of the Sunshine Initiative, Kyle Pimental of Strafford Regional Planning Commission (remote), Cody Crytzer of UNH Graduate School (remote), Ryan Trepanier of Rochester Recreation Department.

ABSENT - Peter Bruckner, Kerrie Landry, Trish Prescott.

A. CALL TO ORDER — David called the meeting to order at 6:00.

B. APPROVAL —

Motion to accept the minutes of regular meeting July 28, 2022, as amended with the email note from Brian Hettrick was made by Esther, seconded by David, and approved by all.

C. DISCUSSION — Recreation Department and potential fall clean-up

The Recreation Department is responsible for the management of the town forests. They will work with the committee to assist with clean-up and other work in Dominicus Hanson Park. **Ryan** offered collaboration for restoration of the seating planks on existing benches. The committee has opportunity with grant applications for fund some additional benches. Sunday, September 18th, 11:00am will be the time of the committee’s fall clean-up in the park. **Maggie** obtained the support of the Rochester Social Club for the fall clean-up. **Ryan** will see **Jenn** in advance of the clean-up to supply some tools and gloves. During clean-up, the committee will take an inventory of existing benches and their condition.

Restoration of the benches will be part of the committee’s spring projects. The high school will be contacted this fall to invite student participation. **Brian** suggested contacting Jack Potvin at UNH to engage with “Project Happy,” an organization that facilitates and keeps records of volunteer opportunities and work.

Ryan notified the committee that there is a need to enhance the lighting along the paved path in the park.

D. DISCUSSION — Project management

Kyle informed the committee of Strafford Regional Planning Commission’s funding for (1) the management plan for the Cocheco River with water quality monitoring, (2) trail development with DOT’s multi-modal transportation model, (3) examples of mapping that SRPC puts together to tell the story of a place, and (4) the community outreach that SRPC would like to do.

The deadline for SRPC’s initial application to Section 604b Water Quality Management Planning (water quality assessment and management planning) is September 16. Additional detail will be submitted at a later date and can address items important to Riverwalk such as educating the public on natural, historical, and recreational features along the Cocheco River.

Kyle encouraged the committee to work with SRPC in creating a story map of the Riverwalk, including natural, historical, and recreational features. For example, locations of benches and fishing spots could be indicated.

E. DISCUSSION — Online communication platform

The committee agreed that participation on the city’s Teams platform using Rochester.gov email accounts for every committee member. The documents currently on Google’s One-Drive will be transferred to Teams. In order for Teams to be an effective platform for storing and sharing documents, all committee members will need to be participants of Riverwalk’s Teams. **Maggie** volunteered to provide training.

F. **DISCUSSION — Water Street design**

Jenn distributed illustrations of concepts for the development of Water Street. Several properties are becoming available for this design. Riverwalk is interested in putting in an amphitheater. This is part of the current concept.

G. **DISCUSSION — Logo next steps**

The winning logos—1st, 2nd, and 3rd place tie—will be enhanced. The logos will have sufficient resolutions to be printed successfully on banners. They will fit to the story of Riverwalk, which is scheduled for the September meeting.

H. **DISCUSSION — Other**

Kyle Pimental informed the committee of an October 6th event promoting outdoor activity in Rochester, focusing on natural, recreational, and economic opportunities. Jenn invited the committee to the 9:30-11:00 coffee hosted by the city. There will be a speaker and a walk.

Story mapping and our presence at community events with our banner, posters, and maps were recommended as a way of informing and engaging the public. Recent NHPR broadcasting has had segments on the Cocheco River. The committee might find ways to collaborate or build on radio programming.

Again the committee noted the need to remove the invasive weedy plants and trees that are blocking the view of the river along the downtown banks.

Jenn has obtained historical references (books and such) that can be added to the Riverwalk story. Members will have an opportunity to review these materials in future meetings.

Jonathan Nichols, executive director of Woodman Museum in Dover, may have materials and ideas to contribute to the story of the Cocheco.

I. **Adjourn —** Motion to adjourn was made at 7:24 by Jon, seconded by Maggie, accepted unanimously.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, September 23, 2022, 6:00pm.

—Respectfully submitted by Esther Turner