

**Town Center Committee  
Minutes for the Meeting of August 11, 2023**

This meeting was held at 12:00 pm in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room in the Merrimack Town Hall:

**Present:** Nelson Disco (chairman), Dawn Tuomala, Nicholas Lavallee, Karen Contos, Karen Freed, Matthew Shevenell, and Bill Wilkes

**Absent:** Finlay Rothhaus

**Minute Taker:** Karen Contos

Welcome back to Karen Freed, joining us again as the Library Trustee committee member. Also, a welcome goes to Grace May, a new media team staff member.

**June 30, 2023 Minutes**

**MOTION:** Bill made a motion to approve the minutes and Karen C. seconded it. Approve as presented.

**Vote: 5-0-2**, abstaining Matt Shevenell and Karen Freed

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Review of Status of Ongoing Town Center Projects**

Dawn handed out the list of ongoing town center projects as well as a map she created that labeled sidewalks: existing, TAP grant, School district proposed, included in a private project, part of a bridge project, and town project.

The committee members reviewed her list and map and asked questions. Matt Shevenell mentioned the proposed sidewalk on O’Gara Street is part of the high school master plan to help with traffic and parking issues. The project’s total cost is currently being calculated so that a budget can be created and sent to the school board for approval. Matt hopes that the sidewalk construction will take place during the summer of 2024.

Out of thirteen sidewalk projects on the list, three have been completed, one is school district funded, four require funding, and the rest have been funded by either the state and/or Tap grants.

Dawn had prioritized the remaining four projects to be funded and so the members of the committee discussed the priorities. She then made a motion to finalize the prioritization.

- Priority #1 is the sidewalk on the north side of Baboosic Lake Rd. from Merrimack Library to O’Gara Dr.

Priority #2 is the sidewalk on the west side of Rte. 3 from Twin Bridge Rd. to the Post Office.

- Priority #3 is the sidewalk on the east side of Rte. 3 from Classic Gas Station to Baboosic Lake Rd.
- Priority #4 is the sidewalk on the north side of Twin Bridge Rd. from the private sidewalk project to the Twin Bridge trail end.

### **Souhegan River Trail**

Dawn reported that everything is proceeding as planned. She went to a Town Council meeting and updated them on the project. Funding has been settled. The staging area for the contractor building the SRHT will be at Watson Park in a fenced-off area with a construction trailer.

Nelson asked about a potential groundbreaking date and Dawn said that date should be known soon and will let Nelson know when it has been decided.

### **High School Master Plan**

Matt handed out a picture of the changes to the high school parking lot created by VHB. To date, the red building was demolished and an in ground pool was discovered on the site. Part of this plan will be installing a six-foot sidewalk on O’Gara Dr. and the sidewalk will have lighting too. The other two small buildings will remain until a central administration building has been procured. Matt is hopeful that the sidewalk construction will take place next summer, 2024.

Bill asked a question about the by-pass roads, between O’Gara Dr. and Woodbury St.; would they be hard to get out of?

Dawn noted that there will need to be traffic signals, like stop signs, as well as a discussion on snow removal. Dawn and Matt will discuss.

### **Town Center Committee Facebook Page and Town Center Video**

Nick reported that the committee has 605 followers. Last month he summarized the latest meeting on the Facebook page. For videos, staff has been recording the summer concert series and other summer activities to put on Facebook.

### **Status of Route 3 / Wire Road & Baboosic Brook Bridge**

Dawn reported that everything is proceeding as planned.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

**Subjects for TCC Annual Report to the Town Council**

Nelson reported that there has been a lot of good news to report to the Council, including the prioritization of the remaining projects.

**Public Comments-**

None

**Next Meeting-** Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 29, 2023, at noon in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

**Adjournment –MOTION:** Dawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt seconded the motion. **Vote: 7-0-0**