

**Town Center Committee
Minutes for the Meeting of September 29, 2023**

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

Present: Nelson Disco (chairman), Finlay Rothhaus, Nicholas Lavallee, Karen Contos, and Karen Freed

Absent: Dawn Tuomala, Bill Wilkes, Matthew Shevenell

Minute Taker: Karen Contos

Dawn Tuomala left a letter and a Revised Town Center Priority List for all committee members as she would not be able to make the meeting. On her note, she reported that the Souhegan Trail Groundbreaking was set for November 3rd at 10 a.m. in Watson Park.

Nelson introduced special guests from the Merrimack Historical Society: President John Lastowka, Chuck Mower, and Executive Secretary, Pat Heinrick.

John explained the mission of the Historical Society which is preserving history and historical information for the town of Merrimack. Recently, the organization has been working with Merrimack TV to produce video documentaries. Also, the society has been coordinating with other town historical societies so we all can learn from other towns. The historical society is particularly interested in the Town Center Committee as they would like to help tie the past and present together, the combination of Merrimack's four towns combined into one. -

They have received information from Dawn Tuomala as well as Kyle Fox regarding the John Chamberlain bridge, a stone arch bridge, which was built in 1921 and used granite from the Lovejoy Granite Company. Milford has a similar bridge, a common piece of history.

The request that John had was that the Historical Society would like to document the Souhegan Trail project. He wants to get information upfront to schedule videotaping segments (talking to contractors, etc.). Arthur F. Rounds is a photographer of stone arch bridges around the state and will be doing the filming. We watched a short video of him and his other photography projects.

Nick reported that the media team will cover the groundbreaking of the Souhegan Trail, and his team partners regularly with the Historical Society. He supports this video project as do the other committee members.

Nelson would like to hold another meeting in October to continue these discussions, especially with Dawn present.

Pat Heinrick, Secretary of the Historical Society, reported that there are family members of Chamberlain who are buried in Merrimack cemeteries. One of the relatives will be coming to Merrimack in a couple of weeks to visit the cemeteries.

Nelson summarized the history of the Souhegan Trail project. He mentioned to the Historical Society that the Chamberlain Bridge is “red-listed” and the Department of Transportation has two options, either replace it with a modern cheaper bridge or refurbish the existing stone bridge. The project is slated for 2035.

Chuck Mower, one of the founders of the Historical Society, spoke about the organization’s competency, professionalism, and progressiveness.

August 11, 2023, Minutes

MOTION: Nick made a motion to approve the minutes and Karen F. seconded it. Approve as presented.

Vote: **4-0-1**, Finlay Rothhaus abstained.

OLD BUSINESS –

nothing discussed

NEW BUSINESS –

nothing discussed

PUBLIC COMMENTS-

see above

Next Meeting-Next regular TCC Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 20, 2023, at noon in the Matthew Thornton Meeting Room.

Adjournment –

Vote: 5-0-0