

Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020
6:00 PM
Meeting Conducted Remotely

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Don Hamann, Chair
Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Vice
Councilor Palana Belken
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson
Councilor Chris Rice

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer
Gary Boudreau, Deputy Police Chief
Mark Klose, Fire Chief
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Tech.
Jenn Marsh, Economic Development

Minutes

Councilor Hamann brought the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:00 PM and he read the following statement:

Good Evening, as Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of City government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

- a.) **Providing public access to the meeting by telephone:** At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting. The public can call-in to the below number using the conference code. Some meetings will allow live public input, however you must have pre- registered online, otherwise, the meeting will be set to allow the public to “listen-in” only, and there will be no public comment taken during the meeting.

Phone number: 857-444-0744

b.) **Public Access Troubleshooting:** If any member of the public has difficulty accessing the meeting by phone, please email lisa.clark@rochesternh.net or call 603-335-7572.

c.) **Public Input:** Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the City of Rochester will be taking extra steps to allow for public input, while still ensuring participant safety and social distancing. In lieu of attending the meeting, those wishing to share comments, when permitted, with the Public Safety Committee are encouraged to do so by the following methods:

- **Mail:** Lisa Clark-Public Safety Committee, 45 Old Dover Road, Rochester, NH 03867 (*must be received at least three full days prior to the anticipated meeting date*)
- **email** lisa.clark@rochesternh.net (*must be received no later than 4:00 pm of meeting date*)
- **Voicemail** 603-335-7572 (*must be received no later than 12:00 pm on said meeting date in order to be transcribed*)

Please include with your correspondence the intended meeting date for which you are submitting. *All correspondence will be included with the corresponding meeting packet (Addendum).*

d.) **Roll Call:** Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. Each member will state their name (and/or ward), also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law. (Additionally, Council members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.)

Councilor Lachapelle	Ward #3 Present
Councilor Belken	Ward #2 Present
Councilor Hutchinson	Ward #1 Present
Councilor Rice	Ward #5 Present
Councilor Hamann	Ward #5 Present

1. Public Input

Councilor Hamann asked Ms. Marsh if there were any members of the Public waiting in the virtual lobby that wanted to speak. Ms. Marsh stated that there was no one in attendance on the conference line.

2. Draft Safety Rules & Regulations Signage for Kayak Launch

Ms. Marsh stated that included in the Committee's packet was the draft of the safety rules and regulations to be put up on a sign at the Rochester Riverwalk Canoe and Kayak Launch. She stated that there is a revised document that included a few minor spelling and grammar changes. Ms. Marsh stated that she had sought feedback on the draft from Chief Klose, Deputy Chief Boudreau, the Recreation Department, the DPW and she stated that she had asked the NH Marine Patrol to review the content for correct references to RSA's. Ms. Marsh stated that that she is looking for approval of both a temporary sign and a

permanent sign to be put up at the launch. The temporary sign to be used while the permanent is being manufactured. Councilor Lachapelle stated he read through the draft and thought it looked great.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend that the full City Council approve the temporary and permanent sign for Rules and Regulations to be posted at the canoe and kayak launch. Councilor Rice seconded the motion.

Councilor Rice asked if there was language referencing trash carried in should be carried out. Ms. Marsh stated that it is item #13 on sign. Councilor Hutchinson asked if Ms. Marsh could screen share the revised document. Ms. Marsh shared the document and explained that the only edits were grammatical and spelling. (***the revised version is attached to these minutes***)

A Roll call vote was taken on the motion.

<i>Councilor Lachapelle</i>	<i>Ward #3 Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Belken</i>	<i>Ward #2 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Hutchinson</i>	<i>Ward #1 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Rice</i>	<i>Ward #5 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Hamann</i>	<i>Ward #5 yes</i>

3. Old Milton Road (backside of Dunkin Donuts) - Safety Concerns – Held In Committee

Mr. Bezanson stated that he had opportunity to make initial contact with the Dunkin Donuts staff, but had not reached the decision maker as of yet. He requested that this be held in Committee as he continues to work on the issue.

4. Millers Farm Drive - Streetlight Request – Held in Committee

Councilor Hamann stated that this item had been held in Committee. He stated that the Planning Board Chair had contacted him and stated that the issue is resolved and the Councilor asked Mr. Bezanson if it was. Mr. Bezanson stated that last meeting he was under the misunderstanding that the contractor had installed all of the required lighting per Planning Board requirements. He stated that in fact the Planning Board had requested two fixtures in Phase 3 of this subdivision and those are not yet installed. Mr. Bezanson stated that the street acceptance was contingent on the installation of these lights. Mr. Bezanson informed the Committee that the Developer's contractor and Eversource will be working to expedite those installations.

5. 290, 295, 298 Chestnut Hill Road – Signage Request – Tractor Crossing/Pedestian

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. He stated that Mr. Torr had contacted

the City in reference to a sign request. He asked Ms. Marsh if Mr. Torr was on the conference line as anticipated. Ms. Marsh said that he was not. Councilor Hamann explained that he had spoken with Mr. Torr who has property on both sides of Chestnut Hill Road. Mr. Torr had explained to the Councilor that when he is traveling back and forth to properties, both on foot and on farming equipment, he is experiencing difficulty due to traffic. He has requested a caution sign for tractor or pedestrian in the area. The Committee discussed and expressed support of the request. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Bezanson if this was the correct application for a pedestrian sign. Mr. Bezanson displayed the tractor sign and pedestrian signs that are recommended for use for this type of concern. ***(Signage pictures are attached to these minutes)***. Councilor Hamann suggested getting these signs up as soon as possible, but would like to know Mr. Torr's preference. Councilor Rice asked if it was a request for 2 or 3 signs as Mr. Torr's properties bordered Chestnut Hill and Betts Road. Councilor Hamann stated that it was for one in each direction on Chestnut Hill Road. The Committee discussed a recommendation in advance of a discussion with Mr. Torr for which sign he preferred.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend the full Council approve the installation of Mr. Torr's preferred sign going in each direction on Chestnut Hill Road. Councilor Rice seconded the motion.

A Roll call vote was taken on the motion.

<i>Councilor Lachapelle</i>	<i>Ward #3 Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Belken</i>	<i>Ward #2 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Hutchinson</i>	<i>Ward #1 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Rice</i>	<i>Ward #5 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Hamann</i>	<i>Ward #5 yes</i>

6. E911 Update

Deputy Chief Boudreau stated there are no updates at this time. He stated there is still a list of Streets to work on, but there are no meetings scheduled at this time.

7. Emergency Management Update

Chief Klose stated that NH is experiencing drought conditions which was reported by Homeland and Emergency Management. He stated that the issue is on the radar and there are concerns for fire conditions. He stated that Rochester has had some small manageable brush fires and he stated they had assisted Berwick ME with a brush fire in that Community. Chief Klose stated that on August 4, 2020 a tropical storm moved through and from 5pm to 9:30pm there were 45 calls for downed trees and down electrical lines. He stated we did use mutual aid to cover these calls. He further stated that on the 5th there were

additional calls due to storm damage as well.

8. Covid-19 Statistics Update

Chief Klose informed the Committee that there was only one reported active case of Covid-19 in Rochester at this time. He stated that Strafford County has reported 13 active cases. There were no new deaths reported today state wide and only 12 current hospitalizations. The Chief noted that as students return to schools this will be monitored closely. Councilor Hutchins asked if the Chief knew the current testing rate for the County or State. The Chief stated that he is not subject to that information. He stated that they will not release those statistics to him as the Emergency Management Director. He stated that he has stopped into the Brock Street testing site and they report very little activity for testing. Councilor Lachapelle stated he believes that facility has been closed. The Chief stated he would check into that and get back to the Committee.

9. Other -

2018 Donation of Four Wheeler by NH Forest and Lands – Chief Klose stated that this was a City Council Approved / Accepted Donation back in 2018 that did not occur. He stated he had the opportunity to discuss this with a retired employee of NH Forest and Lands and was informed that the ATV was not likely available anymore and in fact they really did not know where it is now. He did not know if the City Council needed to be informed that this donation did not occur or if any internal action is needed to document that the donation was not received. There was discussion about a need for a motion and the Committee decided to take no action and to bring it to the full Council as a part of the Committee's report.

Dry Hill Road – Request for No Outlet Sign - Mr. Bezanson stated that the DPW Staff had been contacted to put a "No Outlet" sign on Dry Hill Road. The sign was requested on the portion that is to the west of Rt 202. Mr. Bezanson explained that the Class VI portion of the road is not maintained but this road does not end, it connect to Pond Hill Road in Barrington. Mr. Bezanson explained the terrain does get rough and a four wheel drive vehicle would be needed but it does continue to Barrington. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that he believes there is a gate. Mr. Bezanson stated that he believed there is a gate and that a gate may be present on an unmaintained Class VI Road, but not locked. Mr. Bezanson stated that he had done some research to find any precedent of a no outlet sign in use for an unmaintained Class VI road that actually does have access. He stated that he did not find anything. The Committee discussed and took no action at this time.

Speed Trailers – Councilor Rice asked if there is Citizens access to the data collected by the speed trailers. Deputy Chief Boudreau stated that there is not,

but noted he was not opposed to sharing. Councilor Rice suggested passing the information through the new P/R person working at City Hall. Deputy Chief displayed on screen the results that are available for sharing and stated that they could be shared on either the PD website or the City website.

Waste Management (WM) – Rochester Neck Relocation Street Lights &

Signage - Mr. Bezanson explained that the Public Works and Buildings Committee had done a site walk for this project area on August 13, 2020. He stated that WM will soon be requesting acceptance of the newly relocated road. Mr. Bezanson explained that he would like the Public Safety Committee to recommend the approval of the designed signage and street lighting plan that has been submitted. He displayed the submitted plan on the monitor. The planned showed the new road location with recommended street signs and the lighting at the Isinglass Trails parking area. He stated that at the parking area the PD had recommended lighting. Mr. Bezanson explained that the typical wattage is 45W, but for this application they have proposed the two lights with 65 watt bulbs. He stated that he would like a motion as so that he can work with Eversource and WM on the light and sign installations. **(The graphic / Map is attached to these minutes).**

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend that the full City Council approve the signage and lighting as proposed. Councilor Belken seconded the motion.

A Roll call vote was taken on the motion.

<i>Councilor Lachapelle</i>	<i>Ward #3 Yes</i>
<i>Councilor Belken</i>	<i>Ward #2 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Hutchinson</i>	<i>Ward #1 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Rice</i>	<i>Ward #5 yes</i>
<i>Councilor Hamann</i>	<i>Ward #5 yes</i>

GIS Maps – Mr. Bezanson stated that a Councilor had requested access to some of the GIS maps and tools for looking at various street locations and City infrastructure to assist with decision making. He explained he had been working with City Staff and introduced Dan Camara to explain. Mr. Camara stated he had created a map on the internal GIS System for use by the City Councilors and others. He stated he had also created some instructions for use to share with the Committee and others. He explained it had layers for looking at the streets, sidewalks, and numerous other infrastructure features. He displayed the maps on the monitor and showed some of the capabilities. The Committee liked the map and thought it would be very useful.

Mr. Torr 290, 295, 298 Chestnut Hill Road – Ms. Clark stated that Mr. Torr had

called the trouble shooting line as he was unable to connect via the vast conference line. She stated that he preferred the tractor sign to the pedestrian sign for use in his area. Councilor Hamann stated that he would convey that information in the recommendation at the City Council meeting.

New DPW Facility 209 Chestnut Hill Road – Councilor Hamann explained that he is the City Council Representative on the DPW Building Committee that meets biweekly regarding the facilities construction. He also stated that earlier in the day he had participated in the Public Works and Buildings Committee site walk for this construction project. Councilor Hamann asked that Chief Klose look into the issue of fencing around the new gas pump structure at the facility. He stated that the consultants are awaiting a fencing waiver from the Fire Department. He stated that it has been a pending issue at the bi-weekly meeting for a while. He noted that the fuel island is monitored by cameras and that the new State of NH Fuel Facility is not fenced either. Chief Klose state that he had not been aware of the issue, but he would look into it. Councilor Belkin asked if there was fencing around the current structure at the DPW. It was confirmed that there was not. The Chief stated that it may be a condition of new NFPA Standards and he would get back to the Councilor after consulting with staff.

Councilor Hamann adjourned the meeting at 6:49 PM.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, Administrative and Utility Billing Supervisor.



ROCHESTER RIVERWALK CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH

SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS

WARNING: Please note that paddling and boating are potentially hazardous recreational activities. The risk of injury from canoeing and kayaking can be significant including the potential for serious injury, disability, paralysis and death. There are no lifeguards or safety personnel at this launch or anywhere on the river.

1. **MOTOR BOAT RESTRICTIONS:** No person shall use or operate a motorboat or any boat equipped with an outboard motor with a manufacturer's rated capacity in excess of 7.5 HP, nor shall any person exceed a headway speed of 10 MPH with any powerboat equipped with an outboard motor on Cocheco River within the City limits of Rochester. RSA 270:89
2. **SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK:** There are NO LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY. Water quality varies with water flow and branches, logs, and debris may move after flood events. The muddy water may hide hidden objects and obstacles that prove hazardous.
3. **LAUNCH HOURS:** Boat launch hours are open dawn till dusk.
4. **STAY IN THE STREAM CHANNEL:** River flows through private land, do not trespass.
5. **KNOW YOUR STREAM CONDITIONS & YOUR PADDLING CAPABILITIES:** The River is normally a slow moving waterway, but can change with weather conditions. Take precautions and make sure your skill level is up to river conditions.
6. **PLAN YOUR TRIP:** Familiarize yourself with the waterway before beginning. If you choose to travel downstream please note the signs on the arched bridge noting a Dam ahead, DO NOT travel under the bridge towards the Dam. There are no other public boat launches at this time, please use this launch to remove your water craft.
7. **PERSONAL FLOATION DEVICES (PFD)-** Saf-C 403.01
 - Children 12 years of age and younger **must wear** a personal flotation device at all times.

- No person shall use a boat on the public water unless it is equipped as follows: (1) Recreational boats less than 16 feet in length, or canoes, kayaks or one-person sailboats of any length, shall have at least one of the following types on board for each person; type I, II, III or V PFD.
 - Recreational boats 16 feet or more in length, except canoes and kayaks, shall have at least one PFD of the following types on board for each person; type I, II, III or V PFD.
 - Recreational boats 16 feet or more in length, except canoes or kayaks, shall have at least one Type IV PFD on board in addition to the PFD's required above.
 - All PFD's shall be (1) U.S. Coast Guard approved; (2) In serviceable condition; (3) Readily accessible; and (4) Of the appropriate size, within the weight range and chest sizes marked on the PFD, for the person who intends to wear them.
8. **WEAR PROPER CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR:** Footwear is extremely important. The river bottom is muddy and contains pointed logs and sharp metal or glass objects. River shoes or old sneakers are best footwear for water sports.
9. **BEWARE OF HAZARDS:** As with any outdoor area, there are things that you must be aware of. Low hanging branches, branches in water, submerged obstacles, trash or sharp objects on the river bottom. Also present are natural hazards such as hanging wasp nests, snakes, snapping turtles, poison ivy and human hazards such as broken glass, rusty metal and lines in branches with leftover fishing hooks attached.
10. **TAKE A CANOE/KAYAK SAFETY CLASS:** There are classes available online.
11. **FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED:** Please follow all State of NH Fish and Game Regulations when fishing.
12. **NO ALOCHOLIC BEVERAGES:** Possession or consumption of liquor on city property is prohibited per City Ordinance, 167-9.
13. **BE A GOOD STEWARD:** Don't litter. Carry in and carry out. Do not disturb wildlife or plants.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES: 911. All other State Police inquiries please call 603-293-2037.

Your location is known as Hillsdale Drive along the Cocheco River, Rochester, NH

GPS Location: 43.316238, -70.985989

For general inquiries or more information on other Rochester activities please contact the Rochester Recreation Department: www.RochesterRec.com

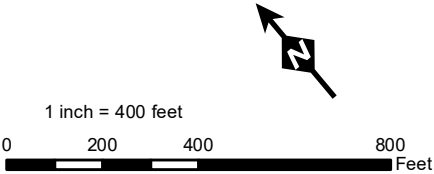
By using the Rochester Riverwalk kayak launch, you agree to follow all Riverwalk Kayak Launch rules and regulations and release the City of Rochester from all liability in respect to any and all injury, disability, death or loss or damage to person or property associated with the use of this launch. For more information about the Rochester Riverwalk please visit: www.RochesterNH.net/riverwalk-committee





Legend

- Proposed Sign
- Planned Street Light
- New Parking Lot
- Approximate Road Realignment
- Waste Management Property



Date: 8/19/2020
Author: DC - DPW, Rochester
Source: NHGRANIT, City of Rochester

Road Realignment
Rochester Neck Road
Waste Management

Rochester, NH