

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 15, 2018

CITY HALL ANNEX, COCHECO ROOM

33 WAKEFIELD STREET, ROCHESTER, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jon Batson, Ray Felts, Stacey Marchionni, Esther Turner, Dave Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT – Donna Bogan, Peter Bruckner, Sandy Keans, Andrea Lemire, Molly Meulenbroek,

OTHERS Present – Jenn Marsh

- A. CALL TO ORDER-Stacey called the meeting to order at 5:34.
- B. APPROVAL - Minutes of April 17, 2018
Dave made a motion to amend the minutes by listing Jon Batson as a member, Jon seconded, unanimous approval.

Dave made a motion to approve minutes as amended, Ray seconded, unanimous approval.
- C. DISCUSSION-Department of Environmental Services (DES) meeting
Jenn reported on the Wednesday, May 9, meeting at Heath Brook of Rochester DPW, NH Bureau of Wetlands, Strafford Regional Planning, and Riverwalk.

If the bridge is located more than 250 feet from the river shoreline, shoreline permitting is not required. If the bridge is located bank-to-bank above the stream, wetlands permitting is not required. The location of the original bridge, as shown on the trail map, requires neither of these permits. Another advantage of the original location is that the bankings are high enough to satisfy high-water clearance (100-year floods).

Esther is continuing to look for documentation on the original bridge. The library has decades of Rochester Courier on microfiche. Ray Felts believes that the bridge was already gone in 1970. Esther will contact some of the older residents of Rochester that may be able to estimate the time of the bridge's existence and its burning so that she can locate some record of it. The grant application will specify that the bridge is a replacement for the original bridge at the same site.

DES advised planning the Riverwalk with as few river crossings as possible and with the least impact to the natural environment, avoiding wetlands and designing boardwalks so that walkers are disinclined to stray off the boardwalk.

Clarification on anchoring of the floating dock with the attached easy-launch and its interface with the shoreline of the river is needed.

Stacey will set-up a meeting with DES to review the overall plan for Riverwalk and get their recommendations. She would like to have someone with some knowledge of shoreline requirements to accompany her. DES advised coming to them early in the planning process.
- D. DISCUSSION-Recreational Trail Program (RTP) and Rochester community invites

Esther reported that, at this point, we are ready to complete the missing pieces in the grant application. The first letter of support has come in from Strafford Regional Planning. On Monday she followed up on others: Recreation & Arena is required because they manage Dominicus Hanson Pines for the city, School Board is also needed because of their property, Rochester Main Street will meet this week. Letters of support will also be sought from Mayor McCarley and City Council, and from Economic Development.

Colin Lentz measured the crossing at the original footbridge site, high bank to high bank, at 70 feet. Adding a few feet for landing at either end would require a bridge length of 80 feet. Stacey is searching for used bridges, as this would keep the costs down. Three quotes are required for purchases. Cost estimates for the bridge requires engineering expertise. Stacey has three possibilities that she will contact.

Rochester Economic Development has planned \$15,000 for use as matching funds for grants, specifically thinking of Riverwalk. Discussion of this and the viability of the Riverwalk project at a recent City Council meeting precipitated a meeting of Stacey with the mayor and deputy city manager this morning.

The Riverwalk Committee discussed the importance of inviting members of the community with specific interest in the project to our regular meetings, starting with a group that has expressed reservations and continuing with clubs and groups that would benefit and could be important allies.

Stacey recommended submitting two grant applications in June—one as planned for the pines trail, reducing its amount, and another for educational purposes—together totaling \$80,000 in the grant request. Ray and Jon volunteered to survey the pines and report back suggestions of features, natural and historical, for informational signs. Esther stated that the high school started work in the pines a year ago with an interpretive trail, using QR-code markers manufactured by the high school, and that they were planning to expand this in following years.

E. DISCUSSION-Revised master plan and easements

Stacey reported that Rick Lundborn, CLD Civil Engineer, has not yet delivered the master plan update.

Stacey is scheduled to meet with the Rochester Economic Development Commission and with Rochester Main Street to present the overall plan and to receive feedback. Other organizations will be visited as she builds knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, Riverwalk.

It is important to minimize the number of river crossings. This can be done with the cooperation of landowners along the river. Stacey will be seeking conversations with those who could make this possible by providing easements to cross their properties.

F. DISCUSSION-City process for projects

If and when a grant application is successful, the City Council must vote to accept the funds and they must vote to expend the funds.

ADJOURN – A motion to adjourn was made by Dave, second by Jon, and approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5 from 5:30-6:30 pm – City Hall Annex, Cocheco Room,
33 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH

Respectfully submitted by Esther Turner