

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 24, 2022

City Hall Annex, Cocheco Room and remote attendance

ROCHESTER, NH 03967

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jennifer Marsh (City Staff Contact; Assistant Director, Economic Development), Jay Lucas and Brian Hettrick of the Sunshine Initiative.

ABSENT - Ray Felts (excused), Suzie Mills

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

A. APPROVAL —

Motion to accept the minutes of regular meeting February 24, 2022, was made by Kerrie, seconded by Jon, and approved by all. Motion to accept the minutes of special meeting March 18, 2022, was made by Jon, seconded by Stacey, and approved by all.

C. DISCUSSION — Sunshine Project

Jay Lucas and Brian Hettrick of the Sunshine Initiative presented. Their next phase is working with three communities in New Hampshire: Laconia, Rochester, and the Westside of Manchester. Their mission is to provide support to revitalize the community by paying attention to what is happening, by identifying and grant and other funding opportunities, and by working at events. There will be a “Sunshine” event in Manchester on Tuesday or Wednesday in the week of June 20th.

They have approached Riverwalk as a community organization with potential to bring revitalization forward. Other organizations within Rochester that have similar potential were identified as Rochester Main Street, Rochester Museum of Fine Arts, and Strafford Regional Planning. Points of interest include the arts, the watershed, community events, and the story of Rochester and her rivers. **Maggie** will establish Google Docs as a shared workspace to collect documents and to coordinate efforts. **Jon** is already working on the story of the Cocheco watershed, creating materials suitable for public education and for display at events. **Jenn** will get the 2018 Riverwalk update into the workspace. **Barb** will contact John Forti about incorporating plant life with an eye to sustainability, diversity, and heritage.

D. DISCUSSION — Logo Contest with High School

Barb is sending a model to Jenn. There was agreement that all high school students residing or going to school in Rochester will be eligible to participate in the logo contest.

E. DISCUSSION — AARP Grant and Project Updates

Stacey took the lead on submitting the application for this \$15,000 grant for seating. The special meeting was called to determine the level of match from Riverwalk. Awards will be made in May. Projects must be completed by September. In April there will be a site walk to identify favored locations for benches in Dominicus Hanson Park.

F. DISCUSSION — Other

Riverwalk will be present at events in Rochester.

Esther and **Jon** will be at the June 4th Wings ‘n’ Wheels.

A reminder was issued by Jenn about the prohibition of fundraising by this committee.

Riverwalk will look for opportunities to provide support and sponsorship to other organizations in the city that have similar goals.

G. Adjourn — Motion to adjourn was made at 6:55 by Kerrie, seconded by Barb, accepted unanimously.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6:00pm. —Respectfully submitted by Esther Turner