

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 25, 2019

CITY HALL ANNEX, COCHECO ROOM
33 WAKEFIELD STREET, ROCHESTER, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT –

Jon Batson, Ray Felts, Andrea Lemire, Stacey Marchionni, Susan Mills, Esther Turner, David Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT – Donna Bogan, Peter Bruckner, Sandy Keans

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE – none

- A. CALL TO ORDER – David called the meeting to order at 6:10.
- B. APPROVAL – Motion to accept the minutes of March 19, 2019, by Jon, second by Andrea, and approved unanimously.
- C. DISCUSSION – RTP grant update and action items

Stacey has one quote and will soon be providing two more quotes for the construction of the footbridge. An archeological survey must be completed before the project can begin. The estimated cost of a Phase 1 archeological survey is between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The grant cannot fund this. Riverwalk Committee has some funds and will have more from the spring fundraiser. Stacey reported that **Jenn Marsh** is looking at the balance in this account once all outstanding expenses, namely, the Master Plan Update done last year, have been paid.

- D. DISCUSSION – Spring Riverwalk fundraiser; finalize date

The date has been established for Saturday, May 18. **All members present** are planning to participate in staffing the Launch and Lunch event. Lunch will be served to ticketholders between noon and 1:30/2:00.

Three volunteers, including **Esther** and **Susan**, will assist participants in understanding the logistics of dropping off canoes and kayaks. The launch time is officially 11:00. **Stacey** will have temporary parking signs for unloading and loading provided for the event. **Esther** will provide a couple runners vests; **Stacey**, the third.

Stacey is also planning for signs identifying the Riverwalk Launch and Lunch at Hillsdale and at Hanson Pines. In addition, she will display the photograph board that Jon created. She will contact the other members of the committee regarding what role they would like to play in this event.

Andrea has taken charge of getting the tables from the high school and will volunteer at the lunch site. Other volunteers are needed at the lunch spot at the landing of Dewey Street pedestrian bridge in Hanson Pines to take tickets, monitor the donation bucket, and assist participants.

Ray will be on the water with his spouse. **Jon** will serve in whatever capacity is needed. He has a model that he will bring to the event, which he uses to educate people on the Cocheco watershed. **David** will be at the lunch site and will speak on behalf of the Riverwalk Committee.

Stacey had the tickets for the event and sold several at the meeting to committee members. Jon and Ray took some tickets and will reimburse Stacey shortly. All 48 tickets will be sold in advance. They are available at Revolution and at Moe's.

Ray contacted John Gisis about photographing the event, and John is interested in volunteering as a photographer. Stacey would like to see the full extent of the Cocheco from the Intervale up to Hillsdale before the trees leaf out. **Ray** will setup a meeting with John Gisis and Stacey at Revolution.

E. DISCUSSION – Kayak launch update

The \$25,000 funding for the EZ launch and its installation was unanimously recommended by Community Development as part of the Community Development Block Grant. The City Council is currently working on the fiscal year 7/1/19-6/3-/20 budget for finalization on June 4.

Julian received an inquiry from NH Fish & Game which needs to be answered. There are nesting eagles on the other side of the river. We need to tell them the timing of the construction, the season dates of its operation, and the parking capacity at the site.

The launch requires secure attachment. To protect the launch once it is installed, surveillance is desired similar to the surveillance being installed this summer on the Dewey Street pedestrian Bridge. When the season ends, the launch will be stored indoors.

The seasonal setup and teardown of the launch might be a good volunteer event to get additional people engaged with Riverwalk.

F. DISCUSSION – Outdoor classrooms

Maple Street School is ready to partner with us in setting up outdoor classrooms at Hanson Pines. **Jenn Marsh** is checking with Rochester Recreation regarding this use of Hanson Pines. The idea is to keep it really simple, using fallen logs as seating. **Ray** can get some volunteers to help with setting this up once the locations and design are ready and approval is given. He estimated it could be done on a weekend. Stacey would like to see these ready to use when school opens in the fall. The committee would like to meet with Angela Hanscom of Timbernook (<https://www.timbernook.com/>) to see what thoughts she has on designing and using outdoor classrooms. **Ray** knows Angela and will set this up.

The committee would like to provide educational signage and placards. **Esther** will look at the potential of 2020 funding from RTP for an educational program.

G. DISCUSSION – Other

- Next meeting: Set dates for two more outdoor dining fundraising events.
- **Susan** will take charge of expanding Committee communication and outreach through e-blasts.
- **Jon** and **Esther** will volunteer some time to staff a booth at Wings 'n' Wheels, Saturday, June 1.
- **Esther** will develop a sign-up sheet for individuals interested in Riverwalk to be used at our Launch and Lunch, Wings 'n' Wheels, and other events.
- **Angela** will keep tabs on grants as we are advised of them, noting critical dates.
- **Esther** will put our calendar on Google, using Google calendar and a .pdf shared in Google Docs.
- Welcome to Susan Mills, our newest committee member!

ADJOURN –

Motion to adjourn by Andrea, second by Jon, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, from 6:00-7:30 pm –

City Hall Annex, Cocheco Room, 33 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH

Respectfully submitted by Esther Turner