

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 23, 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 – Angela Hanscom

- A. CALL TO ORDER – Stacey called the meeting to order at 6:00.
- B. APPROVAL – Motion to accept the minutes of April 25, 2019, by Jon, second by Andrea, and approved unanimously.
- C. DISCUSSION – Outdoor classrooms
Angela Hanscom of Timbernook, info@timbernook.com, a global organization that addresses the therapeutic needs and educational needs of child development through outdoor recreation, informed the committee of her organization. She had toured Dominicus Hanson Park and responded to questions about recommendations for outdoor classrooms by identifying a site that looked suitable and providing recommendations on how to proceed. Expanding the site by removing some of the surrounding undergrowth will create a useful venue for an outdoor classroom and push back the exposure to insects. Keeping the site natural with not much beyond a storage unit for holding items useful to activities allows the teacher to immerse children in the experience of the natural world.
- D. DISCUSSION – Funding
The spring fundraiser succeeded in bringing in almost one-third of the dollars needed for the Phase 1B review. There already is one-third of the needed funds in the Riverwalk account. There is an immediate need for the remainder. The trails boardwalk project, funded at \$42,240 by Recreational Trails Program plus the 20% match of \$10,560 of in-kind or cash by the city, cannot proceed until the Phase 1B review is completed.
Stacey will get on the phone to look for donors. Others are encouraged to make contacts. Clarification is needed on the status of tax-free donation to the city as donors are approached.
- E. DISCUSSION – Kayak launch
The kayak launch funding will be released once the budget is approved and the city enters into the next fiscal year.
The timing of the installation and the season for the handicapped-accessible dock and launch are compliant with NH Fish and Game's protection of bald eagles in the vicinity. Off-season storage is recommended at the storage garage behind the high school.
A six-slot unimproved parking area will go before the technical review group and perhaps before the planning committee.
A grand opening with ribbon-cutting will be held when the handicapped-accessible dock is ready for service. Those who have been instrumental in this project as well as those who will be interested in its use, especially for mobility-impaired people, will be invited.
- F. DISCUSSION – Trail connector boardwalk in Hanson Pines
Before the project can be sent out for bid, it needs specification drawings for the site, surveyed and engineered. The city requires a minimum of three bids for a project of this size.

G. DISCUSSION – Amphitheater

The area along Water Street may be the most suitable location for an outdoor amphitheater.

H. DISCUSSION – Intervale

The intervale behind William Allen School will be the site of next month's meeting so that committee members can become familiar with its current landscape.

At one time there was interest by public works in improving storm drainage into the intervale. Such a project could be coordinated if boardwalks and a pavilion were scheduled.

I. DISCUSSION – Other

Stacey spoke before the city council Tuesday, May 21. She raised the idea of a downtown development administration to coordinate the economic development of downtown, including the Riverwalk project.

Given the revision of the downtown master plan which is underway, it appears to be good timing for the formal incorporation of Riverwalk into city planning.

Riverwalk will participate in Wings 'n' Wheels next Saturday. **Esther** and **Jon** will staff the booth. **Sue** will investigate getting a kayak to raffle. **Stacey** will arrange for a table and a canopy for the Riverwalk booth.

ADJOURN –

Motion to adjourn by David, second by Jon, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, from 6:00-7:30 pm –

Intervale, William Allen School, 23 Granite Street, Rochester, NH

Respectfully submitted by Esther Turner