

ROCHESTER RIVERWALK COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 23, 2020

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

MEMBERS PRESENT –

Jon Batson, Peter Bruckner, Ray Felts, Stacey Marchionni, Stacey Purslow, Esther Turner, David Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT – Donna Bogan, Susan Mills

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jenn Marsh

A. CALL TO ORDER – Stacey called the meeting to order at 6:02.

B. APPROVAL –

- a. Motion to accept the minutes of August 22, 2019, by John, second by Dave, and approved unanimously.

C. DISCUSSION – Project Plans

- a. RTP Grant Update. An extension to June 30th for project completion has been granted by the State. In order to meet this completion date, request for bids need to go out in March. **Esther** will follow-up with Michele Halligan-Foley on our request to Creteau Technology Center for a drawing suitable for sending out with the bids, a construction specification with fewer footings than the drawing prepared by Richard Lundborn at Fuss & O’Neil.

Stacey Purslow will work with Jenn Marsh and Julian Long to apply for a Moose Plate grant to fund the special costs associated with the digs for the piers.

- b. Kayak Launch Update. Approval from Housing and Urban Development to release the funds was received on December 23. Julian Long has prepared an Invitation to Bid, which **Jenn** will share with the sub-committee of Ray, Peter, Stacey, and Jon. Once the subcommittee has reviewed and approved, Julian will send it out for bid.

The Fire Department will provide life vests to be stored at the Hillsdale launch for use by boaters as a safety service. These will remain the property of the city to be returned to the storage location by users. Construction of the storage box will be part of the discussion for the upcoming meeting with Michele Halligan-Foley.

As soon as possible after the installation of the kayak launch, which could be as soon as Saturday, May 15, a special event will be planned with invitations to City Council and relevant state officials. This will be combined with a lunch fundraiser, which this year will be headquartered at the launch with transportation arranged between Hillsdale and the Spaulding parking lot to keep vehicle parking away from Hillsdale.

Peter suggested inviting a company that rents kayaks to the launch event.

Informational signage to include a map is desired for the Hillsdale launch.

D. DISCUSSION – Outdoor Classrooms

- a. Maple Street Charter School has provided their list of names for the outdoor classrooms, which has been sent to Darren Scopel at the high school. The planks for the signs have not yet been delivered to the high school as they are large and very heavy.

Esther will check-in with Darren Scopel about the response of the high school to the nominations by the students from Maple Street and the plan for announcing the new names.

The scheduling and management of the outdoor classrooms will be an upcoming item of discussion.

E. DISCUSSION – Fundraising Campaign

- a. Stacey recommended a lunch event and two dinner events, coordinated the dates around or in conjunction with other events being planned between May and September.

Jon would like to see an educational component included that would inform people of the history of the watershed and the value of the river.

F. DISCUSSION – Other

- a. **Ray** reported on some drone footage that John Gisis provided showing the Cocheco upstream of Hillsdale launch. Once we are assured that that portion of the river is clear for kayaking and canoeing, we can extend our mapping to include the upper section.
- b. **Dave** stated that a warning to boaters of the dam ahead was planned for a location some yards upstream from the arches bridge.
- c. **Esther** will setup a meeting at the high school, perhaps at a time when we can have lunch at the new cafeteria, to discuss activities and projects with Michele's committee. We plan to invite the chair of the school board as he has been expressing interest. On our agenda: potential projects such as life vest storage, provision of lumber from the Hanson Pines harvest, creation and installation of outdoor classroom signs, announcement event for outdoor classroom names, potential in-kind donation to the Heath Brook board walk ramp, picnic pavilion for Hillsdale.
- d. Maple Street Charter School representatives will be invited to the February Riverwalk Committee.
- e. **Stacey Marchionni** will contact the treasurer of Club Victoire to inquire about permission to do temporary pull-outs of canoes and kayaks at Cove Court.
- f. **Ray** and **Jenn** will research some environmentally friendly events for the river: a float, similar to the rubber duckies, but not plastic; model boats; water parade.
- g. **Jon** volunteered to staff an informational table at community events.
- h. Jenn spoke about the integration of Riverwalk plans with other projects, specifically, (1) the greening of the Union Street parking lot which is in the works and (2) the brainstorming of the improvement of Water Street.

ADJOURN –

Motion to adjourn by David, second by Ray, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 27**, from 6:00-7:30 pm – City Hall Annex, Cocheco Room, 33 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH

—Respectfully submitted by Esther Turner