

Approved: 7/23/20 20

TOWN OF WINCHENDON



Toy Town Community Partnership

Telephone (978) 297-5414

109 Front Street
Winchendon, Massachusetts 01475-1758
Robinson Broadhurst Conference Room 4th Floor

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2020

4th floor meeting room

109 Front Street 01475

Members Present: : Leston Goodrich, Art Amenta, Jane LaPointe, , Lorraine Fortugno, Dave Romanowski, Elaine Mroz, Cindy Boucher

Members Absent: Joe Ladeau, alt.
Cailte Kelley, alt.

Staff Present: Tracy Murphy, Director of Planning & Development

1. Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM
2. Public Comments: none
3. Minutes – Minutes of September 3, 2019
Motion to accept Boucher/Romanowski, Vote: 6 yes / 0 no
4. New Business-
 - a. CDBG FY20- T Murphy gave an update to the proposed FY2020 CDBG grant.
Proposed activities:
 - a. Total reconstruction of Railroad Street to compliment ongoing revitalization efforts in the downtown. Because of the minimum Right of Way, the select Board opted for the design that made Railroad Street one way from Central to Pleasant Street to provide 13 additional parking spots...The additional spots help address the loss of parking as a result of the Central Street project.
 - b. \$25,000. supplemental heating assistance program. The proposed plan to administer the fuel assistance program is to use Farm Workers Council (LIHEAP) in Fitchburg to income qualify applicants. This is different as in previous years applicants had to furnish the same information to the town. In addition, Winchendon residents that qualify for LIHEAP will be notified that they also qualify for Winchendon's fuel assistance program unless they choose to opt out. A marketing program will be in place to encourage those that qualify as moderate income residents to apply through LIHEAP as well. Avenues to offer assistance with the application process are being explored. Grants will be up to \$500.00 each toward one tank of heating fuel. Awards will be given on a first come first serve basis.

The Toy Town Community Partnership voted through a motion by Mroz/Boucher to provide the P & D department with a letter of support for the FY2020CDBG grant application. Vote: 6 yes/ 0 no

- b. Winchendon Community Park (Ingleside) Update – provided by Dave Romanowski – OPM, Designer/Architects and Landscape Architects have been hired. A presentation on the status of the project and an opportunity to solicit input was held on January 29, 2020 at the American Legion where approx. 50 people were in attendance. A design concept and cost estimate is expected by the end of March in preparation for a presentation to the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation.

5. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Large Toy Update: Elaine, Lorraine and Cindy are on the sub-committee. Sub Committee members met with Al Gallant and Keith Hickey regarding the proposed "Large Toy" installation along Central Street. The toys cannot be on public property nor can the town commit to installation or maintenance. Keith Hickey let the sub-committee know that the town's liability insurance would cover should anyone get hurt on an installation.

A \$40,000 grant was submitted to the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation to support purchasing, installing and maintaining large toy sculptures throughout the Central Street Area. Cost estimates are between \$15,000 - \$20,000 each. The sub-committee has come up with four potential locations.

1. IGA parking Lot
2. Lawn at the Clark Memorial
3. Lawn at To Each His Own Design
4. Corner of Railroad and Central Street

Other locations suggested by TTCP members were: Athol Savings, CAC and the Bike Path.

The sub-committee is asking that the Toy Town Community Partnership support the sub-committee presenting the project to the Select Board asking for town support prior to reaching out to Central Street Property owners.

Much discussion centered around the relevance of the toys selected, their size, the locations chosen and how the program would be promoted. Elaine explained that this isn't a new economic development idea but that it seems timely. The town has not capitalized on the "Toytown" brand. Cindy suggested that because of cost the project could start with one, maybe two installations to bring attention to the project. There are Bike Path funds that may be able to cover a "bike" sculpture at the North Central Pathway parking lot.

Elaine discussed that the timeline of the RB grant applications necessitated that the grant be submitted prior to all decisions being made. It was agreed by all that many more conversations need to take place to address everyone's questions and concerns and that all members need to keep an open mind moving forward. Lorraine felt that because of the unanswered questions, the sub-committee is not ready to go before the Select Board to discuss the project.

The TTCP voted to approve the sub-committee going before the Select Board to discuss the project through a motion from Romanowski/Amenta. Vote 5 yes/1 no

Project Updates from the Planning and Development Dept.

Jane LaPointe provided an update of the Winchendon HEAL program and introduced the MassUP grant being written on behalf of the town that correlates with the root causes of food insecurity.

The HEAL program has held a series of CIRCL groups and has hired local champion, Rebecca Lee.

In addition, TERRA Corps interns from Growing Places are currently interviewing local producers. (farmers)

The MassUp grant effort is being led by Mary Giannetti, Director of Resource Development at Heywood

Hospital, (also a member of HEAL Winchendon) Merging these two efforts not only works towards addressing healthy food access but get at the root cause of food insecurity through financial empowerment/asset building.

Tracy Murphy explained changes in the Planning and Development office with combining the Planning Agent and the Conservation Agent position. In addition to streamlining the permitting process, having Conservation under the umbrella of planning affords an exceptional opportunity for the town to participate in long range local, regional and state conservation initiatives. The town has increased its presence at the North County Land Trust meetings with the aid of the conservation commission members, promote local conservation goals and participate in local & regional conservation efforts.

Changemakers Winchendon- The department of Planning & Development is participating in a program that engages youth at risk to participate in addressing community issues. The first meeting will be held on Feb 6 with a cooking class being lead by Growing Places (leader of HEAL program) as a trust building exercise. The Police Chief, Select Board member Barbara Anderson and Tracy Murphy will be attending. The second meeting will focus on asking what community issues concern them and presenting those issues to community leaders.

Next meeting scheduled for 3/2/20 @ 4:00PM

Meeting adjourned 5:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Murphy

Director of Planning & Development

minutes unanimously accepted via Zoom (PR)