

Minutes of May 5, 2014 Meeting of the Toy Town Partnership

In attendance: Cindy Boucher, Elaine Mroz, Peter Newton. Also in attendance, Gerry White, Tracy Murphy. Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. The April minutes were read and accepted.

Kiosk We thanked Tracy Murphy for developing the new map, and Lee Cloutier for mounting it. We will make the kiosk an ongoing item to track during our meetings.

Converse Garden Peter is hoping we can get something to put between the urns on Front Street in time for the 250th parade mid-June. This would be useful way to raise awareness of the project. Gerry White volunteered to contact DCR to understand who they use as a sign vendor. Peter will contact the Greater Worcester Community Foundation to see if a sign could be potentially funded by a small grant from them. Gerry reported that Cory Wilson has volunteered to do some site work in the nearly-acquired access parcel at 136 River Street to smooth out existing material. Gerry is optimistic he will be able to get donations of material to help fill the pits in the parking area, and that the DPW will be willing to do some basic site improvement work. Peter has made a connection with a probation officer who has an individual who needs to do 30 hours of community service. Peter intends to use this individual to spread some of the chips that the DPW has provided. The rupture of the old sewer line through the property has been cleaned up, but it is not clear where the funds will come from to repair it.

We agree that we need to readdress the long range plan for the Garden. Elaine will consolidate items listed in previous plans before our next meeting to give us a head start in the process.

Bicycle Trail

Because it appeared that MassDOT was making some progress, Cindy and Gerry did not solicit the help of Steven Brewer. MassDOT continues to drag its feet and disregard input from us or respond to our questions. MassDOT wants a new wording on the agreement to purchase the Mizhir property to specify that it is for transportation purposes only. We think that will impede our ability to close by Thursday, but we hope that we will be able to close by May 30. The Gardner portion of the trail (Phase 6) is moving along very well, and may well be built before Phase 5. We continue to hope that Phase 5 will be bid this year and constructed next year.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Next meeting Monday June 2 at 4:00pm at Town Hall Auditorium.