

Minutes of February 3, 2014 Meeting of the Toy Town Partnership

In attendance: Cindy Boucher, Joe LaDeau, Peter Newton, Elaine Mroz. Also in attendance, Gerry White, Tracy Murphy, Linda Daigle. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. The January minutes were read and accepted after being amended to correct the date.

We welcomed planning agent Tracy Murphy to our meeting. Tracy hopes to focus on updating the Winchendon Master Plan over the next two years, with help from MRPC for models. This will be a grass roots community effort. The Seniors have already begun their own plan as input to this process.

Converse Garden Gerry has continued negotiations with Rose Acceptance, the current holder of the property. On February 13 he will ask the Redevelopment Authority for an additional \$1800 which if granted should finally cement the deal. The Garden is consistent with all the objectives of the authority, so we hope they will be willing to proceed. If this transaction is completed, we will want to create some press for the Garden to thank all who have donated to date and to create more interest in the project in the community.

Peter will attempt to contact Eagle Scout Dan Dennette to learn the details about the sign that Dan said he arranged to be donated. Peter will also inquire about the timing of the next Worcester Community Foundation grant cycle.

We discussed the need to develop a list of ways that people might help contribute to the project. Judy Mizhir has indicated the senior center might like to get involved, perhaps as a joint project with seniors and family members. We know that we have issues with the steps and with drainage. We need to address how to proceed with selecting and installing plant material.

Circle Trail/s -Since it is not possible to get clear title to the land connecting Phase 4 and Phase 5 at Grenallen street, we must proceed with a confirmatory taking. This must be completed by June, or our appraisal will need to be redone. Cindy and Gerry went to Boston on January 7 to meet with MassDOT officials about moving Phase 5 ahead. At that meeting, our engineer explained why he felt no hydraulic study would be necessary, but the state hydraulics person did not attend and must approve the plan. At present all transportation projects are being held up because no transportation bill has been passed. The best guess now is that this project will be advertised in June, and awarded 120 days later. This means that it will be 2015 before any real work is completed on Phase 5. This is despite the fact that it has been 8 years since the 25% review was completed.

Kiosk Elaine has a list of points of interest to include in a new map for the kiosk. She will get this to Tracy who will be our map expert.

Robinson Broadhurst Meeting Linda Daigle was invited at the last minute to update us on the work of the Robinson-Broadhurst sub-committee. She distributed a document that outlined the sub-committee's plan to arrange the purchase of the 42 acre Ingleside house and parcel from the Winchendon School. They hope to work with Robinson-Broadhurst and other organizations to insure that this parcel can create the maximum possible benefit to the town over the long term. They currently plan to apply to Robinson-Broadhurst for money to fund a feasibility study for the project, and for some or all of the purchase price over time. The Partnership confirmed that we would be interested in supporting this project if it proceeds as planned, and expressed interest in reviewing the RFP for the feasibility study.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Next meeting Monday March 3 at 4:00pm at Town Hall Auditorium.