

Minutes of November 4, 2013 Meeting of the Toy Town Partnership

Attendance: Cindy Boucher, Lee Cloutier, Elaine Mroz. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. The October minutes were read and accepted.

Toy Town Horse- Peter submitted an email to report that he and Margaret Paston installed 20 shrubs on the sides of the horse. He said Margaret worked with the donor of a granite bench, and that it will be installed in front for photo-ops in the spring. Cindy, Elaine and Lee had all seen the landscaping and thought it looked great.

Kiosk The temporary map is doing its job, and people are posting flyers. Gerry White has copied the map and intends to get a color one produced, which we will mount in the spring. We may want to add more "points of interest" on the final version, which will be laminated to preserve it. The kiosk attracts a lot of soot from the road.

Converse Garden Peter's email indicated that the (Redevelopment Authority?) has submitted an offer of \$1000 plus tax credit for the property at 36 River St. There has been no response yet. Peter had an initial conversation with someone at Mt. Wachusett Community College regarding community service, but he may need to follow up elsewhere. Cindy mentioned that Winchendon School also has community service workers.

Lee said that he ran into the Scout leader who plans to have his troop work on the project this coming weekend. Lee thought the leader would be calling Peter. Elaine said she'd email Peter to alert him.

Bicycle Trail/s - The town's engineering firm failed to submit all the required paperwork, so the project will not be advertised for bid in November as planned. The parcel purchase was delayed because Mass Highway wants to retain a right of way. But, since the right of way does not involve the seller, the closing will proceed, with the town granting the right of way later. Phase 6 in Gardner is coming close to having a signed contract for design between Gardner and their engineering firm.

Lee reports some initial communications with Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce for the potential of extending a stone dust bike trail from Jackson Rd into Jaffrey along the rail bed. He has already secured promises of donations of material and labor for this project.

Canoe Launch Lee reports that duck hunters have been using the canoe launch at Bushey Bridge at River St.

Doggie Bags Lee reports the installation of 200 doggie bags which were paid for by the Bike Trail committee.

Robinson Broadhurst Meeting- Cindy talked with Bud Fletcher who said that RB has chosen 10 people to serve on a committee to identify some major projects in town that will benefit everyone in Winchendon. John Deline and Linda Daigle will be the representatives from town hall. We discussed the projects that we've been interested in pursuing throughout the years that have been thwarted due to lack of funding. In particular, many of these projects involve park and better use of the river. Elaine will try to summarize something to submit to John and Linda for their review.

Membership Lee reported that Linda Daigle will call the Galats about their participation.

New Business- Peter had a conversation with the new planning agent, Tracy Murphy. He suggested that she attend our December meeting. Since we decided not to meet in December, we went to introduce ourselves after the meeting. We didn't realize she leaves at 2pm, so we will schedule another time to meet with her.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Next meeting Monday January 6 at 4:00pm at Town Hall Auditorium.

Minutes of November 4, 2013 Meeting of the Toy Town Partnership

Attendance: Cindy Boucher, Peter Newton, Elaine Mroz. Also in attendance, Gerry White. The meeting called to order at 4:00 pm. The November minutes were read and accepted.

Kiosk Elaine will work with Gerry White who will develop a more polished map to be mounted in the spring.

Converse Garden

Peter reported that the Boy Scout troop did a lot of work in the late fall spreading mulch. The DPW has opened the guard rail for easier access. Peter is considering adding a railing in the spring to make the steps more manageable.

Gerry indicated that the bank has accepted the Town's \$8,000 offer through the Redevelopment Authority, and he expects to have a purchase and sale agreement from them in a day or two. This is a really big deal, and will substantially help with the accessibility of the garden. Gerry hopes to improve that parcel with as much donated material as possible. He discussed his plans for walking paths both through the garden and across the river from it. We discussed that once the sale has been completed, we should get some press about it to renew some interest in the project. We now need to develop a plan to move this ahead.

Bicycle Trail/s -Cindy and Gerry will go to Boston on January 7 to meet with MassDot officials about moving Phase 5 ahead. One obstacle is that a MassDot engineer insists that we conduct a hydraulic study, despite the fact that there will be no work done to the abutments. A second obstacle is that it is not clear that it is possible to get clear title to the parcels that connect the trail segments at Glenallen St. It is hoped this meeting will clear both these items up, as this Phase must be built in 2014.

Another issue is that some state reimbursement funds were deposited into an incorrect account at Town Hall. Cindy is trying to get Town Manager Jim Kreidler to respond to her about how to solve this problem. These funds cannot be spent until this gets settled.

Robinson Broadhurst Meeting- The sub-committee meeting has been meeting to identify some major projects in town that will benefit everyone in Winchendon. The Partnership has submitted their comments to John Deline and Linda Daigle. It appears that there is momentum to purchasing a riverfront parcel that is owned by the Winchendon School and currently used for faculty housing.

New Business-

Gerry White presented his ideas for some downtown improvements that might be funded by a Community Development Block Grant. This would involve improvements to the sidewalks along both sides of Central Street, and improvements to Walnut St. He requested that the Partnership submit a letter of support for this project, which was unanimously approved. Elaine will work with Gerry for that letter.

Gerry indicated that the new planning agent, Tracy Murphy is very interested in the Partnership's Work and that she plans to attend the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. Next meeting Monday February 3 at 4:00pm at Town Hall Auditorium.