

SOMERSWORTH RAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Sprague, Chair, Martin Pepin, Joanne Pepin, Brian Caple, Paul Robidas and Lara Willard.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jacqueline Hanlon, Travis Heon and Christien DuBois.

STAFF PRESENT: Dave Sharples, Director of Planning and Community Development and Darcy Moore, Code/Assessing Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

1) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 15, 2014.

Motion: Sharples moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2014.

Seconded by Joanne Pepin. Motion carried with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

2) NEW BUSINESS

Willard explained a synopsis of last meeting, the idea of a purpose statement and why the Committee should create one. She proposed writing a paragraph for the Committee to approve as a purpose statement.

Sprague asked if this would be for the press.

Willard stated that it would be for City submittal and/or the press, so they have content about the Committee.

Sprague stated that this is something that shouldn't be done today. Further stated this is something Willard could come up with and submit at the next meeting. He asked if the Committee should start a Facebook page or is it too soon.

Willard and Robidas both stated that it's too soon.

Robidas stated that if the Committee is changing directions it would lose credibility.

Willard stated that the Committee should use Facebook once there's momentum and once it knows that the support of the community is needed. She stated that she doesn't mind running it. She asked if today the Committee should map out the steps for the next 6 months.

Sprague asked when the RFP will go out.

Sharples stated it should go out Friday.

Sprague asked who it will be going out to.

Sharples provided a list. He stated typically we give 2-3 weeks to respond.

Willard asked once the RFP is back, who then responds.

Sharples stated that the City responds, however normally it's comprised of a panel who will then interview and select a candidate.

Sprague stated that by the end of September we should have a good grip on who the pool of interviewees would be. Sprague explained how the respondent will help the Committee with grants, how to do everything, etc., but that he can only speak for Tony Donovan's firm. He thinks the response to the RFP will set the Committee up for the next 6 months.

Joanne Pepin asked if the Chinburg Mills would possibly look to help us.

Sprague stated that he could reach out to him and inform/educate him on how it would help and look to see. He checked the sign-up sheet from the Donovan presentation and Chinburg had a representative there.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having a presence at the Christmas Parade. It was discussed that research into the parade should be done and then discussed at the next meeting.

Joanne Pepin, Caple and Robidas agreed to do some research.

Joanne Pepin stated that to keep going and draw people in the Committee would need a symbol to represent it.

Robidas stated the need to get the proposal back before the Committee can move forward.

Sprague asked about establishing a date for the rail trip.

The Committee discussed the rail trip to Brunswick. The group discussed possible dates and people/groups to meet with during the trip. After much discussion it was agreed upon to not take the trip at this time. It was noted that there is still a need to meet with a person/group associated with the Brunswick project.

The Committee discussed and was in agreement that until the report comes back there's not a lot to do.

Sprague stated he is looking for the Committee to meet September 30th at 4pm. He stated that by then the RFP should be back, a panel put together and someone should be awarded/selected.

Sharples stated that the panel will be relevant to this committee.

Sprague stated that between himself and Sharples, they will coordinate with Bob Belmore.

Sharples stated that he is looking to get the RFP back by September 5th and hold interviews the week of September 15th.

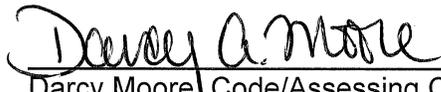
The Committee decided to meet again on September 30th at 4pm.

Motion: Sharples moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Robidas . Motion carried with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Darcy Moore, Code/Assessing Clerk
Somersworth Rail Advisory Committee