FINAL

WEST LEBANON REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR
Remote Via Virtual Platform
LebanonNH.gov/Live
August 19, 2024
5:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Councilor Chris Simon, Laurel Stavis, James Mashal, Dan Nash, Andrew Faunce**

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Kim Chewning, Jim Winny, Erik Endrulat**

STAFF PRESENT: **Nate Reichert (Director of Planning & Development)**

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1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. July 15, 2024

Mr. Nash MOVED to approve the meeting minutes of July 15, 2024, as presented.
SECONDED by Ms. Stavis.
**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (4-0-1; with Mr. Nash abstaining).***

4. NEW BUSINESS – ***The Committee addressed this agenda item at this time***

A. Discussion with Lebanon School District Superintendent Amy Allen

The Committee held a discussion with Superintendent Amy Allen.

Kevin Purcell, Ward 1, spoke highly of Mount Lebanon Elementary School.

The Committee discussed holding a joint tour and discussion of Seminary Hill School and Dana House.

B. Discussion with WaHG - West Lebanon and Hanover Greenway

Kevin Purcell stated that WaHG came to be after comments made during the initial West Lebanon Revitalization Committee. The Council unanimously supported the proposal to find funding to create this pathway. The State's Department of Business & Economic Affairs has also supported this project. This will benefit Hanover, Hartford, and Lebanon. The City Manager asked DPW to determine a scope for the project in order to seek a feasibility study. Hanover has committee to contributing 25% funding toward the feasibility study. Approximately $46,000 will need to be funded by the City, but there is not currently budget available for this. There are also some grant funds available for the feasibility study, but these require matching funding. The feasibility study will produce three options for the project. The request is for the Committee to sign a letter of support.

Ms. Stavis expressed some concern regarding a number of projects that may come before DOT and the nexus for these. Mr. Purcell explained that this will connect three communities and is believed to be a benefit to any other projects. Mr. Reichert stated that the City was not grant ready for this project. The Engineering Office has been involved in laying out potential alternate pathways and working through the process. The Engineers have likely been speaking directly with DOT regarding the projects.

Mr. Mashal MOVED to authorize the Chair to sign a letter endorsing the creation and development of the WaHG trail. SECONDED by Mr. Faunce.
**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0-0).***

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Westboro Yard Update and Discussion

Chair Simon stated that the Council recently heard that part of the project for the Dry Bridge replacement hinges upon being able to build a temporary transfer station for salt. This will cost approximately $250,000. Due to contamination concerns, the State has stated that they will complete the test pit to determine the proper location for the transfer station, but they have to coordinate with other parties. This will have to be resolved before the project can move forward.

Ms. Stavis stated that this sounds like a farce. She plans to craft a bill which gives State agencies a limited amount of time to respond to municipality's requests when funding is involved.

B. Main Street Streetscape Project Update and Discussion

Mr. Reichert explained that the project manager is Brian Vincent, City Engineer, who will be invited to make a report at a future meeting.

C. 'Dry Bridge' Replacement Project Update and Discussion

Mr. Reichert explained that there has been a frustration regarding getting permissions for the railroad beneath the bridge. This is a time-consuming, slow process.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Agenda Item Requests from the Committee

Chair Simon asked all Committee members to review the Master Plan and Strategic Plan documents regarding West Lebanon references, in order to have a discussion regarding which items have been accomplished or are still in the works. This will help the Committee to determine what it wants to accomplish. The 2019 inception of the Committee report should also be reviewed.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Mashal MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. SECONDED by Mr. Faunce.
**** The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0-0).***

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude
Recording Secretary