

DIP Minutes of Meeting held on 2/03/20

Meeting Commenced at 8:32 A.M.

In Attendance: Members: Chairman Steve Carhart, Kirk Svetaka, Chris Shea, Carley Cook and Gar Morse, Former Member Rick Gibson, Town Planner Sue Brown and Facilities Manager Nate Desrosiers

Minutes from 1/06/20 meeting were approved.

Steve briefly discussed the meeting which he and Chris had with Sen. Tarr's liaison to Manchester. We're still waiting to hear back from him regarding grant processes and potentials.

Chris outlined the process of Phase I and the goals of Phase II from Beach / Union to Pine St. Rick discussed the Phase I process which began 20 years ago. The "Downtown" had a very good story involving transportation, housing, business, walkability etc. Their original cost estimates came in at \$7.5M but were scaled down to \$2M with half state and half local funding. Plans were submitted in 01, approved in 03 and built in 05. Rick indicated that there are grants available and it never hurts to ask. As a matter of fact, it often takes a few "asks" before there's any chance of approval sometimes taking several years. Today we also have a good picture with Complete Streets, Affordable Housing and business mix etc. There was a suggestion regarding potential funding by private foundations as well as by state and federal grants along with local and private participation.

Sue spoke to the completion of the town's "Master Plan" as well as current grant funding to explore moving the Sewage Treatment Plant which could become affordable housing. She also discussed grant monies made available to study parking in the downtown as well as 40R issues and the potential for a senior center at the site of the Baptist Church on School St.

Steve asked about state housing bills. Gar discussed the merits of affordable senior housing as well as general affordable housing and their respective effects on the tax base in town. Chris mentioned that the Phase II project seems to interface with all the other things going on including Complete Streets, Affordable Housing initiatives, the parking study, the Town Green project and the Central St. Culvert. Sue agreed to help in generating a game plan including the determination of monies needed, as well as where to turn to get started in the design / drawings phase. Kurt asked Sue if we could access the Tiger Grant application which Rick wrote several years back. Sue will follow up.

Nate explained that the plans for the four active projects within Complete Streets have all been approved by the Selectmen. He met recently with Nacella which has agreed to hold the paving price for the project if they can do all four at the same time. If the Selectmen agree, work could start by late March or early April weather depending. There is a written petition from residents from the Sea/Summer/ Washington St. area to discuss the plans for that intersection. They will be meeting with the Selectmen this month. Nate has asked for our support in that there have been years of discussion and meetings leading up to the final plan. Carley who uses the intersection quite often asked what their issues were but no one seemed to know. Gar said we should see the petition before we agree to anything on this matter. Nate said the new light fixtures and controllers for the Phase I light poles should be installed by March. The Town Green project will be starting soon with completion in early May and be coordinated with the Veteran's Memorial.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Shea