

APPROVED

04/27/2021

Town of Norridgewock
TIF Advisory Committee Minutes

March 23, 2021

Chair John Malek called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM through Zoom, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §403-A. Committee. Committee Members Brandi Ireland, Jessie Everett, Drew Ketterer, John Malek, Becky Ketchum, Ruth Keister, and Sallie Wilder were present. Also, in attendance for all or parts of the meeting was Town Manager Richard LaBelle and Ken Morgan.

We reviewed the last meeting minutes. Drew made a motion to accept then as written, Becky Seconded and all were in favor.

John asked Richard for an update on the town lights being replaced. Richard explained that he has tabled this item until 2023-2024 when we can group it into the sidewalks being repaired. There is a grant available that will pay for 85% of this project. Richard projects the project being around \$1,000,000. The 15% that will not be grant-funded can come from TIF funds equaling around \$150,000. The sidewalk repair project will run from Skowhegan Savings Bank all the way to Oosoola Park.

Ruth asked about the railroad beds becoming a walking trail area and Richard let us know the sale is still pending. He was hopeful it would be sold this summer. This will be a multiuse trail. More information to come.

Becky asked about the money outstanding on the façade program. Some businesses have not requested their funds but after those funds are taken out there is \$594,000 in the TIF fund.

Richard asked us all to brainstorm some ideas we could use these funds for, here were the ideas presented.

- Dress up Emery Park. Maybe do some landscaping, bushes, create walkways. Long-term we are looking to have an on/off access from the train tracks if that ever becomes available. John mentioned having a landscape operation come in and just tell us what potential that small spot might be able to offer.
- Create a paved walking area around the current ballfield by the school. This would be accessible for all ages and seasons. This would draw many people to the area.
- Ken Morgan came to present an idea about building a terminal at the airport. This could have a large conference area that the Town really doesn't have at the time.

We get a lot of traffic at the airport and it isn't very welcoming. This could be something that draws more people. He did some rough pricing and to build the building would be about \$275,000. He also mentioned there is no lighting there and to access the airport it is not paved. This would also need to be done as part of the project. Someone mentioned possibly using renewable energy.

- Christmas Tree Acres was mentioned again. Maybe having someone come in and assess the damage to the building. Would it be worth trying to fix? The owner currently wants about \$50,000.
- Broadband internet was mentioned. Richard stated that there is a Co=Op being organized for many towns to join in on. We would need to contribute \$3,200 to be a part of it. There is a presentation being held on April 21.

Ruth made a motion to have Christmas Tree Acres assessed. Becky seconded and all were in favor. Richard will work on getting that set up. Richard also mentioned he would draft a letter to the board on all of our thoughts to see what they think.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 27 at 4PM

John adjourned meeting at 5:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Everett

Secretary, TIF Committee