

Town of Norridgewock**TIF Advisory Committee Minutes****June 28, 2022**

Chair John Malek called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM at the Town Office. Committee members Ruth Keister, Becky Ketchum, Drew Ketterer (via Zoom), John Malek, and Sallie Wilder were present. Members Jessie Everett and Brandi Ireland were excused. Also, in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Town Manager Richard LaBelle, Kerri Everett, and Matt Everett.

Mr. Ketterer made a MOTION to approve the minutes of March 22, 2022 as written. Seconded by Ms. Ketchum. MOTION PASSED.

Discussion Regarding Ashley J. Wing Family Memorial Park Improvements. Mr. Malek asked Mr. LaBelle to provide an overview of the proposed enhancements, as well as the request standing before the Committee at the meeting. A project overview handout, as well as a recent survey of the park was provided to committee members.

Ms. Ketchum stated that she did not believe any position should be taken before the TIF Committee has to hear what the public has to say. She had questions regarding project costs, potential funding sources. She stated that she believed the request was premature and that considerations may be made for consulting an arborist, among other items. She also questioned the full extent of the proposed project, the total cost incurred by the Town, and whether or not the full project proposal had been fully disclosed. She questions the level of public education and awareness surrounding the project and believes that Administration and Board should be further advertising the project proposal and upcoming hearings.

Quorum was lost at 4:19 PM, but was restored at 4:21 PM when Mr. Ketterer was able to rejoin the meeting via Zoom. No action was taken during the lapse in quorum; however, discussion continued.

Ms. Wilder stated that she was not in support of any aspect of the proposed enhancement project, with the sole exception of the tree preservation. She does not support the utilization of any public funds to encourage the use of motorized vehicles because of the carbon impact. She does not believe that the Town should be working to promote the rail trail.

Ms. Keister entered the meeting at 4:27 PM.

Mr. Malek stated that he supports the proposal, as it is a significant economic development opportunity for the community. He expresses his concern regarding motorized vehicles and responsible operation. Mr. Malek reiterated that the duty of the TIF Committee is to promote economic development and, as such, should support the proposed project, regardless of personal opinion.

Mr. Ketterer expressed full support for the project proposal given its potential impact on economic development. He wishes to see more information as the plan and progress develops. He is also hopeful that this project would spur further economic development in the community.

Ms. Keister asked a series of questions regarding the proposal, but overall expressed support for the proposal.

Mr. Ketterer made a MOTION to support the concept of the Ashley J. Wing Family Memorial Park Improvements as presented. Seconded by Ms. Keister. MOTION PASSED, 4-1 (Malek, Ketchum, Keister, Ketterer in favor; Wilder opposed).

Discussion/Action on Downtown Security Cameras. In July 2021, the Committee authorized up to \$1,000 for the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras to be located in the downtown area. The process of getting a qualified proposal was not easy, but one was finally received from IT4ME. The proposal for the purchase and installation of four cameras is \$2,647.99.

Ms. Keister made a MOTION to recommend increasing the amount authorized for the purchase and installation of downtown surveillance cameras to \$2,647.99 Seconded by Mr. Ketterer. MOTION PASSED.

Progress Update on Canoe/Kayak Storage Options. Mr. Malek, who volunteered to construct the storage rack, stated that he has compiled a materials list and would be submitting that for a price quote from a Town-authorized vendor. He expects that the price of materials has risen since the initial approval was granted and requests that the Committee recommend expanding funding to ensure that the project can be completed.

Mr. Malek made a MOTION to recommend authorizing the purchase of all materials required to build and install the canoe/kayak storage rack previously approved. Seconded by Ms. Wilder. MOTION PASSED.

Other Business. Mr. Malek asked for an update on the swim area. Mr. LaBelle noted that progress hadn't been made, in part because of design questions. There are concerns about how far out from shore a dock system would go, as well as ensuring that the best system was selected. Given supply and expected delivery, the project has been tabled for closer consideration in the off-season months, with the hope of executing on the project Spring 2023.

Adjournment. Ms. Keister made a MOTION to adjourn at 5:08 PM. Seconded by Ms. Ketchum. MOTION PASSED.

Next meeting is set for July 26 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard LaBelle
Town Manager