

Town of Norridgewock**TIF Advisory Committee Minutes****July 26, 2022**

Chair John Malek called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM at the Town Office. Committee members Jessie Everett, Ruth Keister, Becky Ketchum, Drew Ketterer, Brandi Ireland, John Malek and Sallie Wilder were present. Also, in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Town Manager Richard LaBelle, Kerri Everett, and Matt Everett.

Becky asked to amend the last meeting minutes; she thought it sounded like she was against the project, and she was simply saying she wanted the public opinion to be considered. Drew made a MOTION to approve the minutes as modified, Becky seconded. All were in favor.

Emery Town Square- John suggested we create a parking area for the trail once it comes through. He brought some information on fencing. This would be put up to create a barrier so people couldn't come up through Emery Park with their recreational vehicles while they get off the trail to come visit the stores in town. The trails are expected to be open this winter so we wanted to try and come up with a solution to avoid people coming up through the park. Jessie made a MOTION to get pricing on fencing and boulders to have options to choose from, Ruth seconded. All were in favor.

Ashley Wing Memorial Park- Grant secured from State for \$90,000 leaving a \$30,000 gap (estimated project cost being \$120,000). This involves earthwork, tree clearing, gravel, drainage, improving the current parking area. John expressed a concern of people now utilizing the space appropriately. Sallie made the point of these trails not being carbon-friendly; they are only for motorized vehicles. Kerri asked a question of where Sallie got that information from; Sallie was speaking from personal experience. Ruth heard that there was someone who bought 60 acres in Oakland for the purpose of a start/stop place for this trail, and why wouldn't we let them take the lead instead of us? Richard said this wasn't set in stone and we can't rely on that happening. We are #3 in the region for recreational activity. Being a hub for people to stop/start would bring economic advancements to our town. Brandi made a MOTION to support the \$30,000 for Ashley Wing Park, seconded by Jessie. 4-3 vote, motion passed. (Ketterer, Everett, Malek and Ireland in favor; Wilder, Ketchum, Keister opposed).

John mentioned it would be nice if we could contact someone about a mural and/or sculpture for the town. Something creative and eye-catching for tourists to stop and take pictures with. We all agreed this was a great idea and we should look into this more.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:52. Next Meeting set for 8/23 at 4PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Everett
Secretary, TIF Committee