



**Norridgewock TIF Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2023
5:00 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Malek, Chair
Todd Pineo, Vice Chair
Joselyn Doone
Brandi Ireland
Ruth Keister
John Lynch
Deanna Meservie

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager

Also present for all or part of the meeting were Kerri Everett, Matt Everett, Becky Ketchum (via Zoom), and Janice Malek.

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Malek called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. **Discussion/Action on May 23, 2023 Minutes**

Mr. Pineo made a MOTION to approve the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Doone.
MOTION PASSED.

3. **New Business**

Tree/Nature Preservation Proposal

Janice Malek presented to the Committee regarding the preservation of the trees and proposed enhancements to the area. She provided a project proposal for members to review. Ms. Malek noted that a healthy environment and trees help to build communities. The project is important because of the connection to the rail trail. She also notes that her proposal is developed in manageable phases and provides consideration for safety and accessibility.

Ms. Doone asked if the property was clearly delineated. It was noted that the property was recently surveyed and that there are natural borders. Some improvements may need to be made to ensure that visitors do not enter neighboring properties. Mr. Pineo expressed his full support for the project but questions whether the requested amount is sufficient to properly complete the project. Ms. Malek responded that additional funds may need to be allocated in the future but that she will revisit the Committee at that time.

Ms. Keister arrived at 5:19 PM.

Mr. Pineo made a MOTION to recommend approving the proposal as presented, up to \$7,500, and to reserve the right to consider additional future funding for this project. Seconded by Mr. Lynch.
MOTION PASSED.

Trail Maintenance Building Proposal

Kerri Everett, representing the Norridgewock Sportsmen Association, presented a project proposal for the construction of a 30' x 50' structure on the edge of the Ashley J. Wing Memorial Park property that would house equipment to maintain the rail trail, as well as meet other needs of the Town. The Town would own the building, and a storage lease may be executed with the Sportsmen Association. The primary motivation for requesting the structure at this time is the need to house a new groomer, which is too big for the Association's existing building. There is also a need for a maintenance building closer to the rail trail. The building would have a shared use for trail maintenance and operations, supporting the needs of the Association, as well as Public Works and emergency services.

The price proposal is for an insulated building, but doesn't include heat. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Pineo noted that it would be important to plan for heat now, should that be a future project consideration. Ms. Keister questioned whether the project qualified for Façade Improvement funds; it was noted that this was an individual project request and not a Façade Improvement Program submission. Further, the Town would own the building and could be treated similarly to the fire station expense.

Mr. Pineo stated that the Town has an obligation to partner for the maintenance of the rail trail and the park; the Town should be committed to doing it and doing it right. He supports the building proposal but expressed concern about it becoming a clubhouse for the Association. Ms. Everett stated that it won't be a clubhouse but that the Association may sometimes wish to hold fundraisers on the property.

Ms. Doone made a MOTION to recommend project approval for up to \$137,500. Seconded by Ms. Meservie. MOTION PASSED, 6-1 (Malek, Pineo, Doone, Ireland, Lynch, Meservie in favor; Keister opposed).

4. Continued Business

Mr. Malek stated that the mural painting is nearing completion and should be fully installed before the end of fall. He also noted that the Horticultural Club from the high school, under the direction of Dr. Dorney, will work around the mural in the spring to plant native bushes and shrubs.

5. Other Business

None.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Malek declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard LaBelle
Town Manager