

Weirs TIF Advisory Board

Wednesday, January 2nd, 2022 – 2:00 PM

Laconia City Hall Conference Room 200B

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

Chairman R. Ames: Called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

The following members were present: Robert Ames, Russell Poirier, Joseph Driscoll III, Ryan Cardella, Jonathan Thurston, and Robert Mora.

2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting

Chairman R. Ames asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes.

J. Driscoll motioned to approve the minutes, R. Cardella seconded the motion, and all voted in favor 6-0.

3. Update on City Action Regarding Reconfiguration

Chairman R. Ames stated that he had spoken to Wes Anderson (DPW) about proposed changes to the existing plan to reconfigure the docks. The changes have not been finalized yet because the discussion was first needed with Jim Morash from the Mount Washington. A grant has already been approved for the existing reconfiguration plan, but there would be a need for additional funding if the proposed changes are made to the plan. In either case, whether the original or revised plan goes forward, the docks are not expected to be completed for this season, and would instead be finished in the fall and be ready for the next year (2023). Docking at night was also discussed. The proposed new dock configuration has very long fingers, so the current lighting might be inadequate.

The board discussed the utilization of the docks by different types of boats and how and where different boat types should be docked. Docking would be maximized if jet ski and trolling boats docked along the rear edge of the docks, closest to the shoreline. Signage would be needed. R. Mora will reach out to Public Works to gain information on sign production capabilities. Chairman R. Ames asked R. Cardella and J. Thurston to propose language for the signage. The board also discussed the need for a dock master and dockhand to direct boat docking on high-traffic summer weekends and holidays. It was suggested that Parks and Rec could schedule a volunteer staff member or two.

4. Discussion of Weirs TIF Proposed Development Activities “Wish List”

Chairman R. Ames distributed the Weirs TIF “Wish List” which had been adopted by the Weirs TIF Board in December 2018 to revise the original 2013 list. R. Mora explained that we need to update and bring the list to City Council for formal approval, as the 2018 revision was never approved. The board discussed the items on the list and their ranking.

Chairman R. Ames discussed the project to replenish and restore the beach. He noted that progress on the project has been stalled out for several years. The hang-up is the mitigation the NH DES requires so that the beach can be dredged. Land needs to be conserved, or a wetland area created, or a fine paid. He asked what needed to be done to get the City Manager to re-engage with the NH DES to get approval to rebuild the beach without mitigation, or with modified mitigation. The board also discussed grant funding and federal funds that could be used to complete the project.

The board discussed the wish for a public boat ramp and possible locations. The most likely location remains the turn-out on Weirs Boulevard near the sewerage pumping stations and Liliuokalanis. Due to increasing boat congestion on Lake Winnepesaukee, it is unclear whether the State will find this additional access to the Lake desirable.

R. Mora proposed adding Wayfinding signs to the wish list and described how they could benefit the City.

Chairman R. Ames discussed options and ideas on creating ADA public restrooms accessible from the boardwalk.

The board discussed bike trails and creating those along the proposed WOW trail and within the TIF district.

Chairman R. Ames stated he would like to add a public bandstand. The board discussed the history of public bandstands in Weirs Beach, possible locations, and how the bandstand could be tied in with the boardwalk.

Chairman R. Ames proposed adding a lighthouse and/or gazebo to the end of the beach jetty along the Weirs Channel. This is an idea created and strongly supported by Joyce Endee, of Joyce's Craft Fairs.

There was a brief discussion of TIF finances, and whether these wish list projects should be short-term or long-term goals.

The result of the discussion by the Advisory Board was the following list, in order of priority:

Weirs TIF Proposed Development Activities

1. Endicott Rock Park/Weirs public beach sand replenishment/restoration
2. Reconfiguration of the Weirs public boat docks
3. Public bandstand on, or adjoining, the boardwalk
4. Public boat ramp
5. Address trees and growth on banking between the Boardwalk and lake by installing appropriate plantings and maintaining existing growth so views are not obstructed
6. Extend/widen boardwalk in the area between the Mt. Washington building and the stairs to the public docks to accommodate events/activities

7. ADA public restroom on, or adjoining, the boardwalk
8. Construction of sidewalks throughout the TIF District to connect District
9. Bike path along proposed WOW Trail corridor and elsewhere in the District
10. Lighthouse and/or gazebo at the end of the beach jetty along the Weirs Channel
11. Wayfinding signs with City design where useful in District
12. Public Wi-Fi
13. Webcams including areas of the public beach, boardwalk and public docks
14. Burial of overhead utilities on Tower Street

5. New Business

There was no new business before the board.

6. Public Comment

No one from the public was present.

7. Next Meeting

The proposed next meeting for the Weirs TIF Advisory Board will be on Wednesday, August 10th at 2PM.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.