



Town of North Brookfield Meeting Minutes

Committee: North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee		
Location: NB Police Station Conference Room		
Meeting Date: 03/04/2024	Called to Order: 6:31pm	Meeting Adjourned: 7:47 pm
Minutes from the 01/08/2024 meeting were approved as written.		
Members in Attendance: Sheila Orsi, Ethan Melad, Marilyn Borst, Brandon Avery, Sue Lewandowski		
Members Absent: Eva Brown & Jack McClintock		
Guests: Chet L, Michelle Marshall (Dragon Stones Owner), Alex & Love (NB Liquors owners), Shelia LeBlanc, Allyson Bulger, Tara Hayes, Kim Bent		

Meeting Motions / Actions and Summary of Discussions:

1. Complete Streets: Plans were approved at February BOS Meeting February 6, 2024. We are very excited to see Phase 1 of the Sidewalks of the Mainstreet Downtown area approved, since work began on this project in 2018! Looking forward to the bidding process.
2. Potential Parking/Land Acquisition: Sheila Orsi stated that she reached out to real estate agent who has been working with the Salems who own several lots, specifically the Lot behind Jim's Pizza on Maple Street as a potential Parking lot. The Salems might be interested in selling the lot over leasing the space. Sue L suggested purchasing it with a grant. Ethan suggested a Land Acquisition grant.
3. Parking in the Downtown Area. – Many people were in attendance to specifically discuss the issues on Main Street with regard to parking. After much discussion, the following issues were noted:
 - a. Full time Business/Employee and Resident Parking on N Main St “bogs up” quick turnaround parking spots for most businesses on the south running side of Main Street.
 - b. Full time employees and residents need designated spots to park that are a reasonable distance from their place of employment.
 - c. Many of the businesses on the south running side of N Main St find that most of their patrons utilize a parking spot for 10-90 minutes at time.
 - d. Full time business employees in attendance voiced that the designated parking spots for Town Employees on east side of School Street WAS useful when the Town offices were in the town house, and that N Main St is much busier than it has been in the past due to many businesses being open in the Downtown Area. Crossing the street has become a safety issue for them. They also stated that there was a Pedestrian Warning “barrel” in the crosswalk – but that it has gotten hit so many times the department responsible for it refuses to put it back in the crosswalk.
 - e. Poor snow/ice removal and the safety of the sidewalks and crosswalks = in the downtown area was also mentioned. This issue hinders pedestrians from using the opposite side of the road during the winter days, but they mentioned Spring, Summer and Fall, this is less of an issue as the weather tends to be more favorable for safe walking.
 - f. Some of the full-time employees who work on the North side of N Main Street seem to be parking on the south side of N Main Street and that is hindering the businesses on the south side from potential patrons.
 - g. Attendees also voiced that the speed and number of vehicles on N Main Street has increased significantly creating potential pedestrian and vehicle safety issues.
 - h. Parking enforcements on N Main Street have “never” been implemented.

Suggestions that were made include:

1. Speaking to the Safety Committee/Highway and BOS to implement pedestrian safety precautions especially at crosswalks effective immediately.
2. Four-Way Stop at the center of town between N Main St, School St and Grove St.,
3. Full-Time employees park in designated parking spots to ensure retail business parking is more active during business hours.
4. Discussing the winter safety issues with the appropriate committees/departments and coming up with active solutions.
5. Having a Traffic Study implemented/updated.

Next meeting will be April 1, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sheila Orsi
Minutes approved by committee on (see future minutes)
Chairman Signature: (Approved at a future meeting)

