

North Brookfield Downtown Development Committee (DDC) Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

Due to the current Massachusetts recommendations of social distancing and gathering limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held Online through the Zoom.com video conferencing application.

In Attendance: Sheila Orsi, Marilynn Borst, John McClintock, Ethan Melad,

Absent: Glenna Stocks, Sharon Donovan

Guests: Chet Lubelczyk from Finance Committee, Eva Brown from the Friends of the Townhouse, Sue Lewandowski, Ian McElwee and Gemma Wilkins both from the CMRPC

Meeting Opened: 6:37pm

Approval of Minutes:

January 4, 2020 – Moved to accept by Sheila, Second by Marilynn– approved.

Old Business:

Local Rapid Response Grant

Ian asked about the grant, Ethan stated he had not been able to get in touch with Dale Kiley and Ashley regarding a signatory letter we needed to accompany the grant. We also have not heard from the state yet on the outcome of the grant itself.

New Business

Winter Shared Streets Grant

Ian and Gemma have joined us this evening to discuss the Winter Shared Streets program so that we can get a better understanding of the grant and how we might apply for it.

Overall, this is a grant that specifically targets temporary to permanent street projects that help to create spaces for the safety of the public both in a socially distancing and physical means.

Projects that are encouraged include sidewalks, walkways, better traffic flow. Many of the projects in the NB Complete Streets Prioritization Plan have elements that could transfer easily into this grant.

The engineering and finished product of this grant needs to be done by May 2021. This is a “shovel ready” project. That being said, the DDC is not sure if we have that capability but we will continue to sift through the grant to see if it is applicable to our situation. Round 3 is due by January 29 and Round 4 (the final round) is due by February 26 with awards being acknowledged on March 26, 2021. These would come in the form of Ch 90 monies.

Some ideas for application included temporary “bump outs” at the intersection of North Main St where Summer and School Street meet. We also considered Jersey barriers on the North Side of North Main in front of the Congregational church to create a sidewalk, but that idea was

squashed as we didn't think it was a good idea due to the time of year as well as the already limited parking situation in the Downtown area.

Cultural Grant for Virtual Programming

We are happy to announce that this grant has been awarded to North Brookfield. Great job Marilyn and Eva. We look forward to some great programming coming from the FOTH and the Cultural Council when the weather is nicer.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for February 1, 2021. The DDC plans to update the Strategic Plan to ensure it is up to date and accurate for the 2021 season.

Close of Meeting: Motion to close meeting made by Sheila Orsi at 7:39pm, Seconded by Jack McClintock

Meeting minutes submitted by Sheila Orsi

February 1, 2021