



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Mill Sites Redevelopment
Advisory Committee (MSRAC)

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Regular MEETING- MSRAC

Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee (MSRAC)

Friday – August 11, 2023 – 9:00 AM

Hybrid – Merrill Seney Community Room and Zoom

Minutes

Zoom Recording link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bTXPbossX0e_6wJ2Tqs-zGH_h9kx_E4evCfP-dVDMomBOhQ2fEbxoMyoQ06LZmq-f1BwAS_yloVfr_S9?startTime=1691758814000

Passcode: dj+6svgM

YouTube Recording link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqPRINGiBhY>

Members Attending: J. Blanchette – Chair, K. Beausoleil (enters @ 9:05), B. Davis, J. Hall, C. Langlois, S. Lewis, N. O’Leary
Staff Attending: A. St Onge – First Selectman, Tyra Penn-Gesek – Director of Planning & Development

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 9:00 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

June 6, 2023 Regular Meeting – **S. Lewis** moves, **N. O’Leary** seconds approval. Passes unanimously.

July 14, 2023 Regular Meeting – **J. Hall** moves, **S. Lewis** seconds approval. Passes unanimously.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE** - none

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** - no citizens in attendance

5. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

a. CT DEDC Community Investment Fund grant application

The application was submitted on the due date at the end of June. DECD sent follow up questions during July, which were all cleared. Notification is anticipated at the end of September. The funding request was for \$3.88-million.

b. River Mill – 25 year tax assessment VAD ordinance

T. Penn-Gesek provides a summary of the purpose of the VAD Ordinance for the MSRAC members who were not in attendance at the public presentation in July. The Ordinance is on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen at the 15 August meeting, to move the Ordinance to Town Meeting. Adoption by the Town is critical to the success of the River Mill renovation. MSRAC members are requested to attend the BoS meeting and provide comments in support of the Ordinance. **B. Davis** asks about the schedule for the proposed tax assessment incentive. **N. O’Leary** asks if the VAD enables direct assistance to homeowners for needed repairs.

c. Swanson Park

a. Veterans meeting date? – get ideas, reviews possible concepts, discuss shrub removal

At the last meeting, it was generally agreed to wait to meet with the Veterans until after the CIF grant funding is announced. **A. St Onge** states that she believes the bushes have recently been trimmed back by DPW to expose the monuments.

d. Ongoing Committee business

a. Blain Road Intersection

The project is still anticipated to start with NC Inc shortly after Labor Day, dependent on the granite curbing being received. The Fire Chiefs were notified via email that a solution was established for the trucks drawing from the river. **T. Penn-Gesek** did have a bounceback from Chief Whipple's email.

b. River Mill

There is some general discussion of the public presentation from July, which was well received. Attorneys for the Town, the developer and DECD are still finalizing the brownfield grant contract.

c. 630 Riverside Dr

No substantive updates

d. 65 Main Street

The renovation will begin with the re-roof, sometime after Labor Day. The Norway maple in the front yard will come down before that. The hazmat abatement will also begin around the same time. The hazmat abatement is the largest expense so far, and came in significantly higher than the architect's estimate. The CIF funding request includes gap -funding for the renovation, and if that is not successful **T. Penn-Gesek** will reach back out to the two US Senators to discuss extending the funding, or other options. A bid is also open for the permaculture consultant on the food forest, and the public workshop process will begin in October.

e. Main Street Reconstruction

The project is submitted as the main component of the CIF grant request.

e. Other/New Committee Business – Ryan discussion on biodiesel tank farms

R. Cournoyer is not in attendance.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS

None additional

7. ADJOURNMENT – 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development