

# **GREATER DOWNTOWN TIF ADVISORY BOARD**

## **MINUTES**

**June 1, 2021**

**Present:** Peter Robinson, Cy Gregg, and Kyle Sullivan

**Also Present:** Danica Melone and Laura Norton, Office of Planning and Building

Ms. Melone noted with no quorum they would not have a legal meeting or approval of Minutes but could have a general discussion with updates for the group. She also noted the election of a new Chairman would be on the agenda for their next meeting.

### **Financial Projection Review:**

Finance Director Leo Smith had sent the Members a brief review of the Greater Downtown TIF Financial Projections through 2029. Ms. Melone briefly reviewed that document with the members present.

### **Infrastructure Projects Review:**

DPW Director Seth MacLean gave a brief review of several projects intended for the Downtown area. He began with a brief history of how the overall picture of the Downtown and lower Main Street areas were projected to look (greenery, streetscaping, intersection configurations) prior to the Main Street reconstruction.

Mr. MacLean noted a full planning process that also included landscaping and aesthetic improvements to Depot Square, the Riverwalk and downtown parking as well as wayfinding, signage and the new public parking lot off Grove Street.

Mr. MacLean the gave a brief review of the condition of the Grove Street Bridge (rated as a 6/10 and not yet red listed by the state) “that will require a considerable investment.” He noted an estimate of approximately \$250,000 to shore it back up and bring it back to a reasonable condition to last another 25 years.

Mr. MacLean cited the efforts of the Master Plan Steering Committee over the past few months to engage interest and a full public process to complete a completed civil engineered plan involving Main, Summer, Pine, Vale, Vine and Grove Streets. He concluded by noting the development of cost proposals and engineered plans for the town’s infrastructure improvements “is not a s simple as it may seem”

and that he would continue to work on the full plan while doing due diligence to save money.

### **Outreach & Visioning Discussion:**

Ms. Melone gave a brief review of the Master Plan Outreach Findings for the Downtown which included a *postcard* distribution outreach to all residents; a *community survey*; *live Zoon hotline*; a *Peterborough picture project* and *interactive comment boards* located strategically throughout town. “All wrapping up in July” she said.

Ms. Melone reviewed the plans for a Visioning Charette and the outreach being planned and the next steps for TIF engagement. She noted the charette was planned for August and would accommodate those not willing or able to participate in person with a virtual component. She also proposed a two-day event so that people could log on at night and review the information and data and add questions, comments or suggestions. (None of the members present were against a two-day charette).

In closing Mr. Sullivan asked about signage at a kiosk located between Aesop’s Tables and 12 Pine. Mr. MacLean replied the signs had been received and they were in the process of getting them installed.

Mr. MacLean also gave a brief update on the timeline for the Main Street Bridge noting a detailed quarterly check showed the project was at 55% with substantial completion slated for December. He noted a loss of 21 days with a crane mishap but that the December timeframe was still targeted “to have at least one lane of traffic open over the bridge by then.” He noted other site work along Route 202 would be necessary “but that work will have no reflection on the anticipated bridge traffic itself.”

Mr. MacLean concluded with a brief update of the electric charging stations slated for the new public parking lot off Grove Street. He told the group the Peterborough Energy Committee was quite involved and was thankful for their expertise. A brief discussion about site considerations, municipal demand charges, user flexibility and modes of controlling use (escalating or step increases in charging times). M. MacLean noted “the goal is to set rates appropriately so that we do not discourage use but recoup the electrical cost to the town.”

Citing over 200 years of business experience accumulated with the members of the GDTIF Mr. Robinson expressed his disappointment in the Board of Selectmen’s

disregard for their unanimous recommendation to *not* allocate \$10,000 of TF funds for Staff Support (requested at the April 13, 2021 GDTIF meeting).

Mr. Robinson went on to say the members give their time and attention to attend meetings and give their advice “and it just doesn’t feel like our opinion was considered valid” he said. He went on to ask for a better explanation from the Board of Selectmen on the matter. Mr. Sullivan interjected he “seconded” that idea adding he felt it a bit odd their recommendation for allocation of TIF funds was overruled and asked, “what is the point of our vote if we are arbitrarily dismissed by the Selectboard?”

**Other Business:**

None

**Next Meeting:** TBA

The discussion ended at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton  
Administrative Assistant