

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 4/21/21

9:00 am VIA ZOOM

Present: Peter Chamberlain, Chair, Larry Alvarez, Dominique Cassie, Tim Gordon, Ed Merrell, Stephanie Porter, Bill Schofield Mike Shea, Jack Belletete.

Staff: Jo Anne Carr, Director, Jon Frederick, Town Manager

Guest: James Georgopoulos

1. Route 202 Traffic Project Review

Marty Kennedy, Project Manager from VHB opened with a brief recap starting with the Advisory Committee meetings in 2017 leading up to the Public Hearing for a finding of necessity in October of 2019. The three-person Commission appointed by the Governor and Executive Council made a finding of necessity supporting the downtown intersection improvements, including a two roundabout configuration and new bridge over the Contoocook. The Commission recognized the public concerns for pedestrian safety post construction and business impacts before and during construction.

The final design and construction phase will begin once the contract is signed by the Governor and Executive Council, anticipated in early June. The final design will be based on the concept plans (available on the Town website here <https://www.townofjaffrey.com/home/pages/downtown-traffic-project-0>). It is expected to take 1 ½ - 2 years to get to final design and by 2023, plans should be ready for construction bidding. Construction is expected to occur over two seasons through 2024.

The project contract has incorporated a public participation component with a project website, periodic newsletters, email distribution lists and updates at Select Board meetings. A minimum of 5 public meetings for residents and businesses are planned along with “Main St walk arounds” - an effort to meet citizens where they are – on site.

Marty is stepping away from the project management piece, and will take on the role of community liaison in order to fulfill the public engagement aspect of the project. He will also ensure coordination with other on-going Town infrastructure projects. Jason Hilton from VHB will step in as project manager. Tobey Reynolds is the NH DOT project manager.

As for removal of the two buildings required to accommodate the geometry of the intersections, the NH DOT prefers to proceed with a demolition contract for both at the same time. At this time the Lab and Lager has been fully acquired. EDC members would like to work with DOT to develop a temporary site plan for the vacated parcels, such as an information kiosk, welcome center, or plaza. Jo Anne will reach out to Tobey to set a time for coordination with the Town to determine what, if anything we can do.

Other concerns focused on a traffic control plan and construction staging area which will be developed in consultation with the Town as the plans are moving through the design process and into construction. It was agreed that a Downtown Advisory Committee should be established to address concerns with any projects that fall outside of the scope of work for the NH DOT funding. This committee should be appointed by the Select Board. One final concern is the Jaffrey 250th Jubilee happening in 2023. Scheduling will be coordinated around the Town’s activities.

2. TIFDs Capital Planning

Jo Anne has drafted an initial list of projects that have been discussed over the years with cost estimates where either prior pricing or current purchase orders provide that detail.

The google Spreadsheet of Draft CIP is here

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14e8xpiKI94fiASpX7hJ0N4zG1sTsWUPzlpfyzhNd4s0/edit?usp=sharing>

3. Homer Belletete Welcome Center

As has been discussed for a couple of years, the Welcome Center (gazebo) across from Rite Aid is on the Bascom Falls Condominium property. The Association has been anxious to have the structure moved to another location M Shea and Cyndy Burgess will be meeting at 1pm today to discuss options. Jo Anne offered to attend as did James.

4. Board Membership

James has attended several meetings and remains interested in joining the EDC with consensus from the board, Jo Anne will recommend the appointment to the Select Board.

There remains an opening for a Stone Arch Bridge Advisory Committee member, Dom has spoken with Peter Constant (Café 532) who is interested. Jo Anne will meet with him to invite to the next meeting.

5. Other Business/Updates

Town Meeting is April 24, 2021 at 9am held at the Hope Fellowship Church parking lot – drive in style.

Jon also provided an update to the *road paving plan* – the link to the schedule is here

<https://www.townofjaffrey.com/home/news/road-paving-schedule>

The *Cold Stone Springs Municipal Water* supply project is moving forward, the contract for design has been approved, and final funding is pending.

The *road safety audit* for the Old Sharon Road Route 202 intersection was approved by DOT, the audit will be conducted by the SW Region Planning Commission.

6. Elections

Chair and Vice Chair can be elected at the May meeting, after Town Meeting.