



53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: David Martin, Peter Hocknell, Bill Alesbury, Stephanie Krantz, Ilana Liebert, Thomas Begin (Assistant Town Manager).

Absent: Bill Klauer, Lou York.

1. Opening

David Martin called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM via a virtual meeting with no committee members in physical attendance and broadcasted via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

2. Regular Business

- A. A quorum is present.
- B. Notes from the Chair – none.
- C. Resident concerns – none.
- D. Project updates from Tom B.:
 - a. Boulder piles to be reused on site. Due to funding limitations, it will not be possible for all buildings to have full layouts of their original locations. Instead, stones will be used to create the corners of the former mill buildings with extended walls; a sort of formal layout to show that buildings were originally there.
 - b. The amphitheater will consist of 2 levels of stacked masonry block, with a 3rd level consisting of boulders to create additional seating. This is in the current phase of construction.
 - c. The current construction phase also will formalize slope, reduce erosion, and control runoff.



- E. Next phase of CPC grant applications: one for historic signage for the park and another more significant one for landscaping. Includes grass planting, sidewalk paving, parking lot w/ retention basin construction, connection to sidewalks.
- F. Additional funding: Dam + Seawall Program tied to funding opportunities. The MVP program provided favorable feedback from the state in support of more plantings, stormwater mitigation, formalization of the riverbank itself, addition of shade to the area. The program indicated the Town should submit an application prior to June 2025.
- G. The contractor will return once snow melts more; hopeful 2025 is the final year of construction. Assuming funding can be secured, likely park is completed before Fall 2025.
- H. If no additional funding can be obtained, the Town will go in and plant grass seed to stabilize the site. Larger aspects will need to be postponed until funding is secured.
- I. Although the materials are changing in some instances, overall the park design is in line with original.
- J. It is estimated that additional \$250K-\$300K is needed to complete park. CPC applications are \$26K for historic signage, \$201K for landscaping. Committee members can email CPC members urging them to support this.
- K. Port-a-potty will be screened behind a fence, similar to Gardner Field.
- L. Bike racks to be installed, funding dependent. Where exactly located is TBD. Bike tools to not be located at the pedestrian entrance.
- M. Park Naming: this committee feels strongly about keeping “Textile” as opposed to “Shoddy”, in particular since the mill site was used for multiple textile products throughout its history. David will bring the committee’s recommendation back to the Select Board.
- N. Future of committee? Agreed to keep in place for now. Will meet when key topics need to be discussed. Agreement to continue since the project is beginning to near completion.
- O. “Friends” group to maintain the park? Several committee members expressed interest in participating but not in leading such a group. David will ask around to see if a volunteer can be identified.



P. Approval of the minutes from the 15 OCTOBER 2024 committee meeting: Motion to accept made by Stephanie Krantz and seconded by Ilana Liebert. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye
David Martin – Aye
Bill Alesbury – Aye
Stephanie Krantz – Aye
Ilana Liebert – Aye

Q. This committee's next meeting has not been scheduled yet. David Martin will call for a meeting once there are key topics to discuss.

R. Motion to adjourn was made at 7:43pm by Peter Hocknell and seconded by Stephanie Krantz. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye
Bill Alesbury – Aye
David Martin – Aye
Stephanie Krantz – Aye
Ilana Liebert – Aye

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Meeting Agenda for 18 FEBRUARY 2025
- Draft minutes from the 15 OCTOBER 2024 committee meeting
- Scaled back park design with notes