

Date: March 10, 2021

Time: 12:00p.m.

Location: via Zoom

Recurrence: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Minutes Submitted by: Brian Batson

Minutes Edited by: NAC Members

Previous Meeting Minutes (February 10, 2021) Status: Approved

Attendees

Brian Batson (MMC) co-chair

Emma Holder (PNA) co-chair

Garry Bowcott (SJVNA)

Josef Kijewski (PNA)

Lin Parsons (WENA)

Peter Hall (WENA)

Moses Sabina (SJVNA)

Anne Pringle (WPNA)

Alvah Davis (WPNA)

Todd Reynolds (LNA)

Chaning Michele (LNA)

Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)

Walter Pochebit (MMC)

Jennifer McCarthy (MMC)

Dominic Gagnon (MMC)

Nell Donaldson (CoP)

Al Green – MaineHealth

Spencer Thibodeau – City Councilor

Samantha Ward (MMC)

Meeting Minutes: Beginning

Walter – Construction update:

For the balance of March, the SOE effort will continue with tiebacks and underpinning. Mass excavation begins with an average of 15 trucks per day. Mud season - drive off mats (large areas of crushed stone) will be used with power washers for trucks and tires before they hit city streets. Street sweepers and vacuums will also help to keep streets clean.

Garry-Trucks have to take a route that's not really designed for it. "The trucks are turning right at Congress / Valley and Congress / St John. Because of the tight street dimensions at these spots the trucks have to mount the sidewalk to make the turn. This will undoubtedly damage the

sidewalk and newly installed tip downs but also presents a clear danger to pedestrians. I suggest the trucks turn right at Gilman / Congress and then take a left on Weymouth.”

Walter- This is the approved plan, trucks will take a left onto Congress St. The right-hand turn onto St John is nearly impossible, so the safest route is Congress to Valley to Park. This is the most efficient way to quickly get off city streets.

Sitework on Congress is also about to start with utility work in the middle of the road near 887 Congress. It will be from March 30th-April 30th, 7a-7p, forcing one-way alternating traffic lanes with flaggers. At the end of each workday - Congress will be fully operational. Four (4) on-street parking spaces on North side of Congress will be out of service from 7a-7p. Construction is based on Monday-Friday.

Grant Committee Discussion

NAC Grant committee:

- Alvah for WPNA
- Josef for PNA
- Peter for WENA
- Channing for LNA
- Tim for SJVNA

Alvah- all five NAC Grant Committee members got together this past weekend. Reviewed previous years' grants and processes. All agree with Josef's suggestion - take a survey of neighborhood to see if there's any projects necessary. Should take approximately 3 weeks. Could delay process to next fall- would have 70k to work with next cycle.

Peter- How much money was spent on Harborview project?

Lin- Can't give dollar amount, submitted progress report. Meeting scheduled for tonight, will have that information soon.

No project in SJV

Nell- Put Andrew's square project out to bid again. Nell will provide update next meeting or via email

Anne- 100k for Andrew's square

Lin- not interested in more money for Harborview

Emma- Parkside 20k from Maine Med for visioning grant, engaging professional at 50% of usual rate. Neighborhood visioning tool development. ArcGIS software. In contract for 14k of 20k, remaining 6k probably for translation. Transition from COVID plan to face-to-face. New projects: ask neighbors about this.

Channing – Nothing to add for Libbytown other than what was mentioned, will have solid update once grant money is figured out.

Emma- grant committee to do a post grant analysis. Written synopsis included in minutes? Success or failure report?

Alvah- good idea, just need time to figure out how this can happen

Anne-will send template

Emma- Asks how NAC members feel about rolling over funds to next year? Many are in favor. but a little worry about SJVNA because they were left out last time.

Fate of MMC Properties (Jennifer):

Jennifer- Don't necessarily have a plan long term for some properties.

Homes – no thought given to selling. Would have to buy in to housing replacement program.

Greyhound – truly have zero thoughts on long term- short term. it has to look presentable. Possible location for one of 3 MH food pantries. As soon as MH was asked to prepare vaccination clinics, talks were halted around Greyhound.

***All NAC neighborhood representatives expressed that the Greyhound property should be activated.**

Brian- ATM is being removed. Lighting will be fixed. Small fence falling over. Retaining wall will have to be fixed. Obtain sufficient lighting, working with Jamie Grant (Director of Security at MMC). Shuttle drivers take notice of happenings. Pizza building- window crack. Someone is still living there. Graffiti was fixed on March 3.

Moses- future use of greyhound space. If food pantry is not happening- is it going for lease?

Jennifer- does the group have a preference?

Garry- by summer, hoping something would happen with it. Community Policing Center?

Jennifer- food pantry for Maine Health patients (not homeless population)

Garry- is food pantry the wrong name for it? “healthy eating center” maybe

Emma- agree with Garry, there is an educational component to the food pantry idea

Jennifer- Dora Mills is putting together entire healthy lifestyle system

Brian – Community Policing station: councilor interested in this, unsure of viability

Nell- Short time/Long term: proactive positive ways to make the space feel better, not just security and policing. Art? Flowers? Spruce it up.

Garry- Food truck? (All present loved this idea)

Jennifer – I don’t see why not

Nell- It’s a commercial space, yes

Dominic- Took photos of the building to see how we can dress it up. Can be explored easily for very little cost. Canopy thoughts?

No one really cares about the canopy, there is a desire to maintain the Greyhound mural

Anne- Chadwick house was donated; Chisholm house was either bought or donated. Did the housing trust fund intend for these houses to be used for residents or interns, etc? Would like to have discussion offline- not asap, but it’s important- for use of these properties.

Nell- would need to talk about housing replacement barrier.

Jennifer- Nell, Al and Brian to connect on those buildings.

Alvah- are the (Chadwick, Chisholm) houses being used as dormitories?

Jennifer- yes, they are.

Dominic- Garage is being used for landscape and snow removal support equipment and materials. It needs to be in close proximity to Bramhall campus should it be moved.

Emma – St John Union Station Plaza to be redeveloped. Opportunity to invite the Massachusetts developers to make it functional for everyone.

Peter- Strip mall redesign- Amtrak is looking for new location.

Jennifer- MMC was approached about opening a respite center within the hospital overlay zone for patients that are between hospital and home. Patients that don't have someone at home or the resources. About ¼ of outgoing patients don't have an appropriate place to go (SNF, nursing home). Possible 15 bed facility. More info next month.

Moses- Pizza Villa residential spaces: any plan to make these habitable?

Walter- A lot of work would need to take place to maintain (sprinklers, remodeling stairwells, etc.) would be a financial hardship to maintain. Working to vacate.

Moses- would money be put in the housing replacement fund?

Jennifer- absolutely

Chaning- very important to neighborhood to have vacant buildings activated.

Alvah- hospital update?

Jennifer- *provided update on COVID and union activities.*

Meeting Minutes: End

Next Meeting: April 14, 2021

Topics Proposed for Discussion:

- Respite Center
- Grant Committee Update
- Traffic plan update for Bramhall area
- Construction Update

Acronym List:

CoP- City of Portland

LNA – Libbytown Neighborhood Association

MMC – Maine Medical Center

NAC – Neighborhood Advisory Committee

PNA- Parkside Neighborhood Association

SJVNA – Saint John Valley Neighborhood Association

SNF- Skilled Nursing Facility

WENA – West End Neighborhood Association

WPNA- Western Promenade Neighborhood Association