

**Strategic Mill Project Committee  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes, July 31, 2017  
6:00 PM, Selectmen Conference Room**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Brad Pellissier called Committee meeting to order at 6: 03 P.M. First Selectman Bud Knorr called Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

**Members Present:** **Committee:** Brad Pellissier, Ralph Williams, Tim Potrikus (vice chair, and selectman), Joe Iadarola, Eric Ness and Tim Keeney; **Selectmen:** full Board present. Also present was Somers Town Engineer Jeff Bord.

**Project Update:** Jeff Bord provided the following information:

- a. Contract came back from DECD review and was signed on July 31, 2017
- b. The project will be scaled back to the level that is accommodated by the grant. The Maple Street project funds cannot not be used for the Mill, and though the State powers advised futuristically an additional support for completion, it is advised that the Town use what funds are available now, especially since there is not a State budget now.
- c. There will be less work in the river. The wall will be scaled back and this will not affect the 100-year flood plain nor the project. Should the State come up with dollars in the future, while work is progressing, the developers would be able to extend the wall under the Town permit which does not expire until 2021.
- d. The drop-in funding is \$275, 000 dollars. Mr. Bord provided maps to outline the flow of the river, the grade, and the long-term plan with existing walls with assurance that the walls rest on solid bedrock so there should be no compromise to the project.
- e. The contractor came in on July 31 to sign the contract, in six weeks he anticipates all bricks will be down, and he has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to work inside the river.
- f. The water level is down by the dam due to the Powder Hollow project, which should aid our project.

**Committee Progress:** Chairman Brad Pellissier opened a discussion with the Strategic Mill Committee to assess where they have gone with the charges provided by the Board of Selectmen. Reviewing the initial charges:

“Using the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Brownfield Remediation Financial Assistance Proposal Project Description Guidelines to recommend development options for the site prioritizing in order the following considerations:

revenue generation, environmental impact, and community support for each option.

Advise the Board of Selectmen on methods of public outreach to promote successful development of the site.

Discussion:

Community Outreach:

The Committee advises public outreach via the website to an easier access by positioning a link with the URL on the home page that can be a one click operation and residents can see periodic updates and the status of the operation.

Add Frequently Asked Questions(FAQS) section so that one might easily find the answer to their questions asked before by someone.

The most important questions now would be what the Town is trying to do with site, include the information now on the engineer section to this front page. Keep the Town people informed.

Schedule of events, (road closings, progress of cleanup, etc.)

Include the potential for development once the site is cleaned.

Use bullet points and time lines

Use the site and Facebook as well as the app to e.gov on the day the shovel hits the ground.

Add Future and have a two-week update. At some point get to: demolition nears completion, now what? Then involve Courtney in the process, she can send info to Jeff.

Jeff Bord will take the suggestions and information to the Town Hall Committee. He will be the liaison with Courtney as well.

**Secession Planning:** Brad Pellissier reviewed the charges and began a conversation regarding fulfillment of the charges, the committee widely believe they would like to stay involved in an advisory capacity to share their experiences over several years they have worked on this project, with vendors and developers. Joe Iadarola said that there needs to be an additional level of attention and as this plan nears completion it is important to have a sounding board and dialogue over what has been proposed. Hopefully this will help the commissions to make the right decisions, not just dependent upon the developers' proposals.

The Board of Selectmen will codify a new set of charges so the Strategic Committee can move forward The Board recognized and thanked the

group for the value they brought to the Town, the shepherding of the project, the experts they brought to the table, and the dedication and their care they desire to continue to bring even more to this project. The Planned Development District was encouraged and brought to the Town by this very dedicated committee.

The committee agreed with the advisory capacity, much like a Design Review Board, where they would come to the zoning and planning meetings, formulating a joint committee meeting where they would be in an advisory capacity. Their strategic role helps with the first RFP that is received by Courtney.

**Meetings:**                    **Next Meeting: September 11, 2017. Kathy Devlin will forward to Brad Pellisier, just prior to the meeting, minutes for both the June meeting and the July meeting so they can be approved.**

**Adjournment:**            Strategic Committee: 7:01 P.M Motion: Eric Ness. Second. Joe Iadorola. Unanimously approved.  
Board of Selectmen: 7:02 P.M. Motion Tim Potrikus. Second. K. Devlin. Approved Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen A. Devlin.