

**Town of Somers
Mill Strategic Planning Committee
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2017**

Members Present: Chairman Brad Pellissier, Vice Chair Tim Potrikus, Eric Ness, Ralph Williams, First Selectman Bud Knorr, Jeff Bord, Tim Keeney, Joe Iadarola, and Kathy Devlin, Courtney Henricson (CERC)

Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.

Progress Report: Engineer and Director of Plan Use Jeff Bord provided the status of the Mill, indicating that there are two items left to complete: mulching the side slope using a local contractor, and removing the netting on the fencing on the north side of the of the project. DPW will be installing no trespassing signs and the fences will remain for protection from liability.

There has been positive feedback provided by many passers by. Answering Tim Keeney's questions about the stability of the pressed brick, the mulching schedule, height of the north wall, and plan for additional mulch: pressed brick is very stable and will ultimately get covered with fill, but not during the wet winter months when material could slide into the river. Mulch will hold the south walls. The north side will need a 3 foot fill, and all the questions about top soil, grass, aluminum fence and more will be addressed after back fill with the walls on the river are managed.

First Selectman Bud Knorr provided a financial report. To date, the remainder in the funding is \$94,856 which will be applied to the needs with fill and walls. The Town with the assistance of CERC has applied for a Brownfields grant, there is considerable cost associated with the walls (\$725k) and further grant processes will be exercised. At this point, the Selectmen did not want to go over budget. Left for future is the need for fill , final measurements, a fence along the top of the wall, and barriers for control.

Financing: Courtney Henricson: When asked about the condition of the project at this point, is it marketable? Are the cement floors in the mill of value? Developers like it where it is and can figure out what they need including cement floors, etc.

Additional funding to the Brownfield grant include applying for a STEAP grant in the January round, and she will push hard for a request of \$500,000. This is what would also be applied to the walls.

In the spring, the fisheries will be putting boulders to assist the growth of the fish schools. The committee agreed that the contractors and team of workers did a wonderful, diligent job with the mill demolition and removal of debris. The Town was blessed by favorable weather during this project.

Public Outreach:

The website has been current.

Question of a joint meeting elicited comments that it would be best to get the key people involved, do not make it too difficult or unwieldy because then it would be too difficult to get off the ground. The meeting should start with Zoning members meeting with the strategic committee, CERC and BOS. Share the genesis of the project, the efforts the adhoc and strategic committee has contributed and be sure to include the vision developed for the development.

The public hearing that would be planned later should also be a transparent process.

- What has been done to now**
- What is the plan going forward**
- How it will be achieved.**

The committee suggested that Glen Chalder moderate the meetings. He will review in these meetings, the PDD and how it works. Further, in combined meetings and the possibility of getting all decision makers in a room, review of the POCD, PDD, and development strategies will be key topics.