

**MEET ME IN SUNCOOK
February 7, 2023
Adopted Minutes**

1. Present: Gerry Belanger, Joyce Belanger, Don Bibeau, Katie Booker, Joan Bussiere, Kursten Butler, Dana Carlucci, Jocelyn Carlucci, Norma Daviault, Ron Daviault, Bob Fanny, Pat Fowler, Steve Fowler, Chris Girard, Chris Glenn, Glorie Jacob, Louis Jacob, Bruce Kudrick, Paula Kudrick, Evelyn Miller (Goffstown), David Plouffe, Nicole Plouffe, John Seeman, Lynne Verville, Jerry Vincent, Wendy Weiseiger

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm

2. Robert Frost Park – Riverbank invasives discussed by Chris Girard

Gerry Belanger gave a brief explanation on how Chris Girard, a certified registered arborist, became involved in looking into what work could be done at the Robert Frost Park riverbank.

Chris explained that there are a few invasives on the property. He mentioned the bittersweet vine which is coming up around the trees and choking them, the other being the Japanese Knotweed which is the plant that looks like bamboo, both of which can be cut close to the ground and hauled away to the Dirt Doctors.

There are some native huckleberries and other shrubs that have grown up a bit and are starting to impede the view along the river and those according to NH DES regulations can be cut down to no more than a height of three feet. He also identified a number of dead, diseased and dying trees that can be cut down. Some of the larger branches can be trimmed off of healthy trees to restore the view.

Shoreland study is done by grids, 25 ft. on shore by 50 ft. back and within those grids you need to have a certain number of points. Each tree counts for a certain number of points depending on the diameter of the tree. As long as you have the right number of points within a certain grid you can remove the trees without causing any problem with the State of NH.

From the culvert on the southern end, Chris marked out eight grids, around 200 ft. Chris went through and identified what needs to be done in each grid to restore the view.

The work should take no more than two days. Those trees that do not have invasives could be chipped on site and put on the shore which will put nutrients back into the soil.

Joyce Belanger had a question regarding the large log in the river and Chris said that it could be hauled out.

No paperwork has to be submitted to NH DES. It is work that can be done legally. Chris, a certified arborist, did the shoreline study.

Chris said that this is a project that Public Works could monitor. If they see that the bittersweet etc. is beginning to grow, they can go in and cut it down.

Bob Fanny of Public Works reported that VJ, the Public Works Director, already put money into the budget for the company that mows the lawn, twice a year, to clean the area.

Chris said that his typical rate for one day is \$1675.00 which includes Chris, four people on site, trucks chippers etc. The work includes the shoreland documentation materials.

He said that it was not something that had to be done right away. April might be a good month to have the work done.

He presented his proposal to the committee.

Wendy Weiseiger, a Conservation Commission member, stated that the main interest of being at the meeting was to learn about the invasive management. She made a copy of Chris's report and said that she would share it with the Conservation Commission at their meeting on Monday.

3. Update of Town Clock – Steve Fowler

Steve recently met with Steve Fifield who gave him a proposal regarding the Town Clock. Proposal is attached. (Jim Garvin highly recommended Steve Fifield.)

The Proposal included splicing on new wood where it is rotten and scab on some braces as well as the clock tower being strapped for high winds which is the newest concern in construction. The cost could run approx. \$30,000, without renting a crane. Steve said that this is a realistic proposal for the work that needs to be done.

Don Bibeau said that he read the proposal and felt that it was a properly written scope of work.

Steve said that this project would probably be a fund-raising effort at this point because the Town already paid approximately \$75,000 to another contractor to do work that was just completed.

Steve also mentioned that he would discuss with Jim Garvin the possibility of him looking into grants or matching funds for such a project. The stumbling block has always been that the clock is owned by the Town and the building is privately owned by Don Bibeau.

Steve pointed out that the work that was done by the last contractor needed to be done – such as some practical repairs and painting of the faces.

Jocelyn said that various original pieces of the town clock were being stored in different locations and she would like to eventually have all of the clock pieces stored in one location such as the 4 Union Street building.

4. Fire Department Horn – Bob Fanny

The Fire department contacted Bob about disposing the original Fire Department horn that used to be on the roof of the original fire station at 4 Union Street. Bob contacted Jocelyn and the old horn and the compressor will be moved back to the Union Street building. The Public Works Department volunteered to help to move the items once a moving date has been established.

5. Treasurer's Report – Glorie Jacob

The Treasurer's report was read. It was mentioned that the 2023 dues are now being collected. The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Gerry Belanger and seconded by Ron Daviault. The motion passed.

6. Secretary Position – Jocelyn Carlucci

The motion was made by Jerry Vincent to have Glorie and Louis Jacob fill the position of Secretary. It was seconded by Lynn Verville. Motion passed.

7. Wreaths Update – Joyce Belanger

Joyce reported that Bob Fanny and the Public Works Department removed the Christmas wreaths from the light poles. She said how wonderful it has been having the Pembroke Fire Department and the Public Works Department help with getting the lights on Main Street cleaned and bulbs replaced as well as putting up and taking down the wreaths.

The banners originally on the bridge light poles are presently stored at the Union Street building and the Fire Department has offered to hang them in the spring.

Katie Booker asked if there was a way to get a fourth flag on the bridge to match the other three that were provided by the State. Jocelyn Carlucci said she would check her records for information on the original number that was supposed to be provided by the State after they worked on the dam.

8. TD Bank Site Update - Jocelyn Carlucci

It was reported by Jocelyn Carlucci that the owners of the former TD Bank building withdrew their application to turn the building into a drug rehabilitation facility. She thanked all those who attended the Zoning Board meetings and expressed their support for Suncook Village.

9. Update on Newsletter – Jocelyn Carlucci

The newsletter is done. Speedy Printing quoted \$473.02 to print 500 copies and do a "bulk mail" for approximately 400. 100 copies are distributed between the Allenstown and Pembroke libraries and town halls.

Jocelyn explained that initially the mailing list was created by listing all those people who participated in the walking tours, concerts, and any other activities that MMIS sponsored. The list will be reviewed with the goal of reducing the number of people to receive the mailings. (Many have either moved away or passed away.)

Chris Glenn of Odd Ball Brewery suggested that MMIS develop a business facebook page and other social media accounts, i.e. Instagram as an inexpensive way to reach a larger population.

John Seeman offered to print copies of the newsletter at no cost.

After much discussion, it was agreed that social media would be a good way to introduce MMIS to the public. John Seeman, Katie Booker and Chris Glenn volunteered to create Facebook and Instagram pages and present them to the committee for review. They suggested that making four posts per month would be enough.

John Seeman asked if membership fees had a tiered structure i.e. gold member vs. silver member, etc. He said that sometimes it entices people to increase their donations.

Motion made by Joyce Belanger to pay Speedy Printing \$473.02 for the printing of 500 newsletters and postage to send out 400. Chris Glenn seconded the motion and the motion passed.

10. Projects – Gerry Belanger

Gerry Belanger explained his idea of creating a “Suncook Village Welcome Packet” for all new residents of Allenstown and Pembroke as a way to promote the downtown businesses. He explained that with a number of developments soon to be completed such as the High Street School apartments, the China Mill apartments/condominiums, and the Hillsbrook Senior Housing facility, there will many new people who may appreciate learning what businesses are available to them in the Village.

The thought was to establish a committee of two to four people who would gather the following items for the “Welcome Packets” such as business brochures, restaurant menus, business cards, churches bulletins, the Suncook Village Self-Walking Tour brochure, the MMIS newsletter, the Allenstown Senior Center newsletter/brochure, and even information on what is available at Memorial Park. As a further way to promote MMIS, the “Welcome Packet” (or bag) could be labeled “Meet Me In Suncook”.

There was discussion about signage at the top of Broadway and the top of Main Street to lure people to the Village. It was agreed that someone should look into what might be necessary to do so, such as permitting and creation of signs.

Banners:

Jocelyn would like to look into vinyl banners, the same size as the state-provided ones on the Main Street bridge, that would say "Welcome to Historic Suncook Village". The thought was to have only a few made and placed at strategic locations such as the top of Main Street and Route 3, and top of Broadway and Route 3.

11. Next meeting March 7, 2023

12. Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gerry Belanger and seconded by Ron Daviault. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Glorie Jacob