

Minutes

Downtown Improvement Committee

June 9, 2023

In Attendance: In Attendance: Marylou Blaisdell, Michael Buckley, Philip Scontsas, Tim Sennott, Rich Lannan, Edward Hayes, Liz Hannum

Also in Attendance Amy DeRoche, Carolyn Walley – GAD, Bobbie Bagley, Department of Health and Liz Vasquez Department of Health.

Motion by Rich Lannan, Seconded by Tim Sennott to approve May 2023 minutes.

Discussion on monies available to committee.

- Allocated to date money for holiday lighting, overtime for summer street cleaning.
- Discussion on adding additional lighting for the holidays – a quote will be requested from Lights Up.
- Discussion on redoing all street banners for each season – a quote will be requested from Alphagraphics.

Carolyn Walley of GAD stated the Taste of Downtown was a good event, total income from event not calculated yet. Several members of the committee stated that many vendors ran out of food early. Suggestions to make sure communication to all restaurants very early on anticipated numbers.

Farmers market is on Sundays and is going well. Scarecrow contest will return in the fall. Holiday Stroll committee will begin meeting in July.

Liz Hannum stated that she is working on some event ideas also. Marylou stated that she is working on a downtown night to for business owners to meet Liz and discuss downtown.

Discussion with Bobbie Bagley and Liz Vasquez on the homeless situation downtown and issues businesses are seeing. Bobbie and Liz explained that the issues are complicated, mental health, substance abuse, housing costs, etc. They are working to try to educate and stress boundaries.

Discussion on promises made by Nashua Soup Kitchen that have not been kept. There were many meetings with the ED of NSK and their board. Downtown business owners were promised that a day room would be opened during the day and that AA meetings would be held there not at the church. None of these promises have been kept to the community. Downtown has seen an increase in trash, needles on the street, etc. and it is very concerning to all business owners.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

