

Meeting 10/24/19

Mr. Stohrer opened the meeting at 9:10am

Quorum was not met, no votes today.

Planner update:

Charrette Meeting #2: First project will be cleaning up the woods behind Tooky Mills. Mr. Stohrer complemented the work done so far.

Mr. Matthews explained the area being worked on is the area of the old railroad bed to create a walkway to Kemp Park. He compared the park to Azalea Park in Henniker. Cleaning up the land there will create interest and more attractive atmosphere. Hillsborough Reborn met two weeks ago and did work but there is still more to do and they need more volunteers. Mrs. Brien suggested that she can put information on the town's Facebook page.

Ms. Payson reported taking a Grant Writing workshop. She feels comfortable with many grants, but states the town will still need to hire a writer for CDBG applications. She got updates on available grants to apply to our projects.

Rob Reno is interested in volunteering with the town to advance the work of the Charrette. He was a volunteer at the Charrette and lives next-door in Henniker. Steve Mino will also be working to advance the work.

Ms. Payson talked about adopting a TIF district to pay for infrastructure improvements. A TIF district is adopted by a vote at Town Meeting. The target is to present the proposal to the town at town meeting 2021. Discussion is planned to begin at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on November 12.

Ms. Payson reported that the town is beginning to be approached by business interested in coming to town.

Mr. Matthews spoke about using the Concord Monitor "Insider" section to spotlight Hillsborough. Ms. Payson suggested that the approach should come from the EDC, and that the EDC should work on a press packet. The revitalization of Hillsborough could be a big show including NH Chronicle.

Ms. Payson also discussed the town acquiring a GIS program to make maps. Currently there is no ability to generate maps for things like parking. The mapping program has benefits that reach beyond planning.

Superintendent Update:

PTO has met their \$75000.00 goal to build the new playground. The goal was achieved in 2 years. The kids attended a Pig Kissing event to mark the event as the two ES principals kissed a pig to keep a promise made two years ago.

\$575,000 money from State of NH, came from the compromise budget following much discussion, the School Board decided not to spend on "extra" items for this year (long term projects not addressed in budget of 19) but rather to use the money to offset the taxes for the district next year. The estimate is that this will offset an average of \$100 of taxes in 2020. Additional money will be coming next year and the School Board needs to decide how to handle those funds.

Mr. Hassett discussed the age of buildings and updates and repairs and the expiration of the bond issue for the middle school is creating a lot of ideas.

The District was approved for an AWARE grant, and Mr. Hassett and Ms. Parenteau are addressing the strings and value of the money to decide whether or not to take it.

Mr. Stohrer addressed the links on the EDC website. EVERYTHING needs to be updated. Mission Statement needs addressing. He asked that all members spend some time on the website to share their observations of the needed changes on the Mission Statement. Ms. Payson reported on the history of the website for the EDC.

10:02am, Mr. Hassett left the meeting.

Mr. Stohrer addressed the lack of attendance at the meeting. Ms. Payson agreed with his concern and suggested finding members who can do more than attend a meeting.

Mr. Stohrer ended the meeting at 10:08am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Brien