

# Town of Mansfield

6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048



## Downtown Committee OFFICE

2021 FEB -4 P 1:28

### Meeting Minutes 1.28.2021

**Present:** Kevin Dumas; Chair, Beth Ashman Collins, Neil Rhein, Jack Cooney and Eileen Cusack. **Guests:** Lee Azinheira (DPW), Craig Miller, Waterfield Designs. Minutes: Nancy Griffin

**Call to Order:** The Downtown Committee was called to order at 4:33 pm by Director Kevin Dumas.

#### Acceptance of Minutes

**Motion to accept the minutes from December 29, 2020 made by Neil Rhein, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beth Ashman-Collins. Roll Call Vote: Beth Ashman Collins – Yes, Neil Rhein – Yes, Jack Cooney – Yes, and Kevin Dumas – Yes. Vote 4-0 PASSED**

#### Discussion Regarding Harry Chase Place:

Mr. Craig Miller of Waterfield Design gave the Committee a review of the discussion of the last two meetings. He then offered his thoughts and ideas on possible design layouts and object art. Mr. Rhein suggested that the Committee reach out to the neighbors for their thoughts on what types of activities should be planned for the new space. He also mentioned that maintenance costs for fountains and such should be considered before moving forward. Mr. Miller said it is early to go to the neighbors because we don't know if we have an idea that will go beyond conceptual. He offered, at this point the Committee needs to decide who to talk to first, when to do it, and what to present. He said, we started with this small group to decide if we have something we want to take to the Select Board or Town Meeting. He added, now that we have started talking about what this space might be, we now know that we have something worth moving forward.

Mr. Miller continued, we have to start by thinking about all open spaces in Town and decide what we want this particular space to accomplish, so when we put our Master Plan hats on we want to make sure everything we do is in concert with the Master Plan and with all other projects in Town.

Committee members and guests offer their thoughts on layout, gardens, walkways, and other design features such as a fountain or sprinkler park or water-jet features and the maintenance costs associated with each. Mr. Miller added that we still have to develop how we will bring the legacy of Harry Chase to the space, and that it could be on panels, other art or objects on the site. Mr. Dumas stated, one of the things that is important is that we have a formal sign for Harry Chase Place, that could lead people to the associated panels in the park. Mr. Miller said, we want to tell people what we are doing and why, so the sign is important but we also want to subtly tell people what is going on in the park and why. Mr. Miller stated that his firm like the concept of the object art drawing in people's interests first and then once they are engaged there are additional information signage, objects, or panels that give more meaning and history of the space.

Mr. Cooney asked what the next steps are once the Committee decides to move this project forward, and what the timeline would be for the project. Mr. Dumas said the Committee would need to make a decision about

the concept, then get buy-in from the Select Board, then it would go to the CIP Committee, and finally we would engage the public to get their opinions on the final use. He added that funding from a State or Federal grant might be possible as well.

Mr. Dumas asked the group for their recommendation for moving forward. The committee members agree to recommend the entire space (Option C) be put forward for consideration of green space to complete Harry Chace Place. Mr. Dumas told the Committee he would put forth their recommendations and once approved we will then invite the public in to give their thoughts and input on the use of the public space. He told Mr. Miller it would be good to have some actual panels when we do this in-person workshop so people can place their marker on their preferred choices of what they would like to see in the space. He added perhaps we could hold this workshop on-site to give interested parties a chance to see the options at the actual site. Mr. Dumas spoke briefly about some State grant opportunities that presented themselves during the Covid outbreak that were intended to help create additional outdoor spaces for people to use safely during the pandemic.

There were additional agenda items to discuss but another meeting was scheduled to begin, so Mr. Dumas made the recommendation that the Downtown Committee schedule another meeting in the near future to discuss the remainder of the agenda.

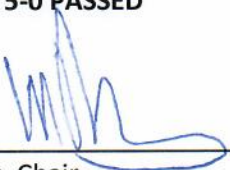
Next Meeting Date: The Committee members agreed to meet next on Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

Any items not known 48 hours prior

Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn at 5:27 pm made by Neil Rhein, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack Cooney.**

**Roll Call Vote: Beth Ashman Collins – Yes, Eileen Cusack – Yes, Neil Rhein - Yes, Jack Cooney – Yes, and Kevin Dumas – Yes. Vote 5-0 PASSED**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Dumas, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date