

# Town of Mansfield

6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048

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## Downtown Committee

MANSFIELD



### Meeting Minutes 2.2.2021

**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 4:36 pm by Director Kevin Dumas.

#### Acceptance of Minutes

**Motion to accept the minutes from January 28, 2021 made Eileen Cusack, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack Cooney. Roll Call Vote:** Eileen Cusack – Yes, Martha O’Connell – yes, Neil Rhein – Yes, Jack Cooney – Yes, and Kevin Dumas – Yes. **Vote 5-0 PASSED**

**Update on Parking Rules & Regulations:** Mr. Dumas told the Committee that the new Parking Rules & Regulations for the Downtown have been approved by the Select Board. In summary, the commuter parking on Thomas Street and 214 Rumford lot has been changed to general parking and is no longer commuter parking. All downtown parking has been changed to four hours. After hours parking in commuter and downtown lots are unrestricted between 6:00 pm – 6:00 am. Mr. Dumas gave the Committee and update on the increased number of parking spaces that were gained in the redesign of downtown, the net was 103 additional parking spaces between the lot behind Jimmy’s Pub, the old Fales lot, the 214 Rumford Lot, the diagonal alignment on Thomas Street, West Cottage, Crocker Street and the public lot at Bluestone Bank.

#### Ideas for other beautification efforts:

**Banners:** Mr. Dumas reminded that in the past the Committee had discussed the possibility for purchasing four banners that would change during the year. He suggested that this could be something Downtown Committee member Jack Cooney could take to the Finance Committee for consideration as we approach the end of the fiscal year if there is any money left. Mr. Dumas said he can put some pricing together for the brackets and the banners to take to the Finance Committee, so they are aware that there may be a request later in the year. Mr. Azinheira asked if this would include the MassWorks banners. Mr. Dumas suggested that we list them by area and gave the Committee an idea of the areas where he would like to see the banners in the Downtown.

**Discussion regarding planting area along Thomas Street at Chauncy:** Mr. Dumas ask Mr. Azinheira to check on the quote for the pruning in the area (the moat) that abuts the Winthrop Street lot where overgrowth is growing over the wall and to prune all the trees, and for a planting area on Thomas Street at Chauncy. Mr. Rhein wanted to know if the quote could be to maintain it on an ongoing basis because it has been difficult to get a local landscaper to do as part of their Adopt-A-Spot commitment. Mr. Dumas clarified that the quote should include the backside of North Lowney Common that abuts the handicap area because there is a scrub area in there that needs to be cleaned out and for something to be planted with something that is less intrusive and easier to maintain. After it has all been removed perhaps it can be replaced with rock or be heavily mulched – something that’s easy to maintain going forward.

Mr. Rhein described the Thomas Street area as being a location where there is an opportunity to make it look better than it does. There are large pine trees that shed pine cones. If we could beautify that area that is our gateway to downtown it would improve the whole look of that area. There is a tree near the memorial that is in tough shape that should come down. Mr. Dumas asked Mr. Azinheira to follow up on that area as well.

**Discussion of public art and sculptures along bike path:** Mr. Rhein stated that he saw some art along the bike path in Hudson and it got him thinking that our bike path could be a lot more interesting if we have some art to enhance the attractiveness of our area and attract more people to our area to make it a more interesting walk. Mr. Dumas stated that we could consider other ideas as part of the shared path than will be going toward the airport leading outside of the downtown. Mr. Rhein stated that we may have more success getting Mansfield's downtown designated a Cultural District if Mansfield had more of this type of art. Ms. Cusack stated that the Mansfield Cultural Council is very interested in moving forward with this, but there is very little movement at the State level. Ms. Cusack stated that the MCC will have an update for the Committee at the next meeting. Mr. Dumas asked Mr. Rhein to share with him the images that he captured in Hudson. Mr. Rhein added, he created a Facebook page called Friends of the Mansfield bike path that may be used as a resource. Mr. Dumas asked everyone to bring thoughts and ideas of sculptures that could be shared at the next meeting. Mr. Cooney offered that whatever is done should be consistent with the plan that Craig Miller is putting together for Harry Chase Place. Mr. Rhein offered that the Mansfield Democratic Committee is working on a Heritage Trail Museum which might tie in as well. Mr. Dumas let everyone know that he has a meeting coming up with the representative from Mansfield Democratic Committee to discuss their plans.

**Path signage:** Mr. Dumas told the Committee that there are new Shared Path signs that will help people using the path to know where to walk and ride. Mr. Rhein asked if we could consider marking or stenciling the paved path to the airport, and beyond when it gets extended, to separate bike and walking lanes. Mr. Dumas stated that he believes the new path signage does delineate the use.

Mr. Rhein asked if it would be possible to name the parking lots to make it easier for people to identify. Mr. Dumas stated that the new Parking Rules & Regulations have named the lots and he gave examples. Mr. Rhein stated that he would like to see a name on wayfaring signs. Mr. Dumas said that if we were to add signage and names we should then give the lots lettered names. Mr. Azinheira asked if the lot names would need to go before the Select Board for approval. Mr. Dumas suggested that Mr. Azinheira present a sample of the signs to the Downtown Committee, and with their approval it would then go before the Select Board.

**Review New Business:** Mr. Rhein asked to start a discussion at the next meeting on the Fall Festival.

**Next Meeting Date:** The Committee members agreed to meet next on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

Beth Ashman-Collins arrived in the meeting at 5:25 pm.

**Any items not known 48 hours prior**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:34 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, Martha O'Connell - Yes, and Kevin Dumas – Yes. Vote 6-0 PASSED**

  
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Kevin Dumas, Chair

  
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Date