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Town of Mansfield

6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048

Town Manager

Kevin J. Dumas

Downtown Committee

Meeting Minutes 3.3.2020

Present: Kevin Dumas; Chair, Martha O'Connell, Beth Ashman-Collins, George Pantos, Neil Rhein, Jack Cooney, Christopher George; Recorder,

Guests: Lee Azinheira (DPW), Dick Kelsey (Congregational Church), Kathy Seery-Lee (Mulligan Gear), Kevin McNatt (Historical Society),

Call to Order

The Downtown Committee was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair Kevin Dumas.

Acceptance of Minutes

***Motion to accept the minutes from February 4, 2020 made by Mr. Rhein, 2nd by Mr. Pantos.**

Vote 6-0 PASSED

Naming of the Park; Discussion & Vote

Mr. Dumas reviews some new information in regards to naming the park behind Jimmy's Pub. He explains that if they provide the name "park" then it will prevent the Town from using the space in the future. He cites article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution and explains to the committee how it comes into play. He provides alternative language that would avoid this issue.

Ms. Ashman-Collins says it makes sense since it's just a small parcel of land to name it something other than park. Mr. Dumas asks if the Downtown Committee would like to call it Place, Plaza, or Square, and asks if there are any other suggestions.

Mr. McNatt asks if they could use Common. Mr. Dumas says no and that's actually used as an example of a name that will limit the space. Mr. Dumas says if one of the ideas doesn't work then they could go to the Selectboard to ask them to make it a park.

Mr. Rhein reviews the definition of plaza. Ms. Ashman-Collins says it could be named plaza.

Mr. Cooney says he likes Harry Chase Jr Place. Mr. Rhein says he thinks of pavement when he hears the word plaza. Mr. Rhein suggests the term Green. Mr. Pantos says that would get confusing with the Mansfield Green. Mr. Azinheira says they could start calling Mansfield Green the Mansfield Recycling Center.

Mr. Cooney suggests they discuss the name first and then decide the description.

Mr. Dumas says they should first decide if it should be called a park. Mr. Pantos says it's very nice back there now and says they shouldn't think of what it will become in the future but how it can be used now.

Mr. Rhein says he likes Harry Chase Jr because of his historic connection to the Town. Mr. Pantos says he likes Thomas Barnes because of his artistic abilities and his notoriety in Town. Ms. Ashman-Collins says they could eliminate Back Bay.

The Committee agrees to eliminate Back Bay.

Ms. O'Connell says if they go with Tokey Barnes than will they will need to provide information on whom the person was. Mr. Dumas says yes, they would want to provide a write up on the person. Mr. Cooney says Harry Chase is better known in Mansfield. He says that Tokey was a local downtown person but how many people in the Downtown vicinity would know of him. Mr. Pantos says probably not that many. Mr. Rhein asks if this committee is making a recommendation to the Selectboard. Mr. Dumas says yes.

***Motion to suggest the names of Thomas "Tokey" Barnes and Harry Chase Jr to the Selectboard made by Mr. Pantos, Mr. Cooney. VOTE 6-0 PASSED**

Banner Design Session

Mr. George asks the Committee to present their banner ideas he requested at the previous meeting. Mr. George displays two rough drafts of banners to provide an example of what they can create. He explains that they would submit a draft to the banner company who would then finalize the design.

Mr. George explains that, due to budgetary reasons, they should create a single generic banner design that could be used to alternate with the seasonal ones. Mr. Dumas suggests 2 sets of alternate base banners. Mr. George fields for focus items on the banners. The following are suggested:

- A flag based banner that displays the Mansfield Doughboy.
- A Goose
- The South Common Gazebo
- The Seal of Mansfield

Mr. Azinheira says they could run these between Memorial Day to Veterans Day.

Mr. Rhein suggests they have a graphic designer review the designs before they're submitted for printing. Mr. Dumas agrees with this. Mr. Dumas says they'll have Mr. George create the four templates suggested.

Any items not known 48 hours prior

Mr. Rhein obtains the Bocce court design from Mr. Azinheira. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Azinheira says he found plastic covers for the trash drums and has ordered some to perform a trial with them. Mr. Cooney asks if it's just placed on top. Mr. Azinheira says it's clipped on top and he'll order them in black. Mr. Dumas says they should try it. Mr. Azinheira says he'll start with ordering ten. Mr. Cooney asks if there are any recycling barrels in Town. Mr. Azinheira says that most people unfortunately do not notice the difference between regular trash and recycling.

Mr. Azinheira says the dog waste dispensers they ordered are actually the same ones they already have. He says that people are still able to steal them because once it gets too low people can stick their hand in to steal the rest of the waste bags.

Mr. Rhein asks about the pole mounted barrels. Mr. Azinheira says they'll be put back on the posts they were originally on. Mr. Rhein asks about trying to keep the new light poles clean. He says before he never saw them as ugly on the light poles. Ms. O'Connell says the area near Savannah Nails is pretty bad. Mr. Rhein says he thinks they worked well in their previous positions. Mr. Rhein says they ended up with the mounted barrels because the DPW mentioned it would be hard to plow the sidewalks with too many large barrels on the sidewalk. Ms. O'Connell says she's noticed a lot of nip and beer cans at the corner near Mulligan Gear. Mr. Pantos says he's never seen anyone drinking outside and he often leaves late on Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Dumas says he's sending a message to the Chief in regards to this.

Mr. Cooney asks if he could add something to the next agenda. He wants to brainstorm ways to incentivize bringing retail into One Mansfield. Mr. Dumas says there are aspects of this that they need to work with Town Council on.

Adjournment

***Motion to adjourn at 7:58pm made by Mr. Pantos, 2nd by Mr. Rhein. Vote 6-0 PASSED**



Kevin Dumas, Chair



Date