

# Town of Mansfield

6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048

## Downtown Committee

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### Meeting Minutes 3.18.2021

MANSFIELD  
MASSACHUSETTS

**Present:** Kevin Dumas; Chair, Beth Ashman Collins, Neil Rhein, and Eileen Cusack. **Guests:** Lee Azinheira (DPW).  
**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 February 2, 2021 made Beth Ashman Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Neil Rhein. Roll Call**

**Vote:** Eileen Cusack – Yes, Neil Rhein – Yes, Beth Ashman Collins – Yes, and Kevin Dumas – Yes. **Vote 4-0 PASSED**

**Parking Lot Signage:** Mr. Dumas gave the Committee an update on parking. The approved Parking Rules & Regulations have been implemented. He offered that there has been a new sign designed for the public parking lots. Mr. Rhein asked if the areas near Harry Chase Place would be designated as a public parking lot. Mr. Dumas responded that that area is actually a street and not a lot, so there will be 4-hour parking limit signs for the available spaces. Mr. Dumas stated that the signs would be blue (and not Mansfield green) as parking-related signs are always blue.

#### Ideas for Beautification Efforts:

**Banners:** The Committee discussed possible banner designs and their costs. Several ideas for design ideas were offered such as the inclusion of the gazebo, the doughboy, the Town seal, and the use of green as the main color on a simple but tasteful design. Pricing and funding sources and funding sources, such as the American Rescue Plan, were discussed. It was agreed that two to four designs (basic green, patriotic, holiday, and Spring) which would include the discussed elements would be pursued and presented at the next meeting.

**Parklette:** A discussion took place regarding purchasing parklettes for use by downtown businesses as part of the American Rescue Plan to support local business which have been struggling due to the difficulties from the economic downturn from the pandemic. Mr. Dumas wanted the Committee to consider working with Downtown businesses to get their thoughts in an upcoming meeting about the possibility of bringing the parklettes to Mansfield. His idea is to enhance the Downtown and encourage consumers to bring their business to the Downtown. The Committee was excited by the possibility and expressed their interest in moving forward with this project. Mr. Dumas asked Mr. Azinheira to get current pricing and lead-time for the parklettes. Mr. Rhein suggested that they incorporate a design that would include the Town's branding on the parklettes to increase Mansfield's branding.

**Project Update:** Mr. Rhein asked Mr. Azinheira for an update on the status of the dumpster enclosures as his notes show that this was to be completed in 2020. Mr. Azinheira acknowledged that this was one part of the Downtown projects that did not get completed, but he would be adding it to the list of things to be done this summer. Mr. Rhein asked for an update on the Pathway and Parking Lot (A) project. Mr. Dumas offered that the project is complete with the exception of final loam and seeding of grass around the walkway and lighting are not done yet as they could not be completed until Spring. Mr. Rhein asked if directional signage could be placed on N. Main Street near the entrance to Lot A (Bluestone Bank) to direct pedestrians toward the pathway. He also asked about potentially enhancing the area across from where the mural is on the ramp at the train station in a decorative way with something that would complement the existing mural. There was discussion of another mural being done on the opposite side. Ms. Ashman Collins offered

that the application process with MBTA is extensive and that there must be an artistic design submitted with the application. Ms. Cusack offered to reach out to one of the Cultural Council's grantees who may be looking for a project to do with the funding they received this year. Mr. Rhein asked if the Town had received the cost estimate yet for beautifying the area at the top of Thomas Street. Mr. Azinheira stated that the cost estimate was reasonable and the vendor had been contracted to do the work already. Mr. Rhein asked if there was anything that could be done to get some representation from Downtown business on the Committee. Mr. Dumas stated that George Pantos was still a member, but is choosing not to attend and that his office has reached out to Kathy Seery-Lee of Mulligan Gear to see if she is interested in joining the Committee, but he has not heard back from her.

**Review New Business:** None

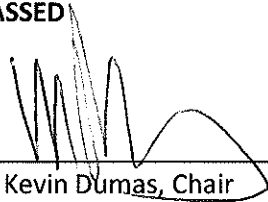
**Next Meeting Date:** The Committee members agreed to meet next on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

**Any items not known 48 hours prior**

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:44 pm made by Eileen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beth Ashman Collins.**

**Roll Call Vote: Beth Ashman Collins – Yes, Eileen Cusack – Yes, Neil Rhein - Yes, and Kevin Dumas – Yes. Vote 4-0 PASSED**



Kevin Dumas, Chair



Date